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S. Africa concerned over Mideast tension

PRETORIA (AFP) — The South African government on Monday expressed concern about what it called an escalation of tension in the Middle East where President Nelson Mandela is to pay a visit in November. "The recent escalation is of great concern to us, we are in consultation with various governments to see what else can be done to ensure that this does not collapse," Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad said in an interview with AFP. He said that his government was consulting with the United States and Scandinavian countries but admitted that Pretoria had no "illusion" about playing a major role in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that Mr. Mandela's scheduled trip to the region on Nov. 4 might be delayed for several days because of an important meeting of the ruling African National Congress. Mr. Mandela's trip, initially scheduled in May, has been delayed twice. He is to visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the autonomous Palestinian territories.

Erbakan wants strong ties with Libya

ANKARA (AP) — The head of Turkey's government pledged on Monday to build up ties with Libya. "We are determined to take Turkish-Libyan relations to the highest level," Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan told reporters after a meeting with Libyan Ambassador Ahmad Abdul Hamid Al Atrash. Mr. Erbakan did not specify how the relations would be stepped up. U.N. sanctions, imposed in 1992, ban arms sales and flights to and from Libya. "We understand Libya's sufferings from the sanctions," Mr. Erbakan said. Turkish press reports said Mr. Erbakan was planning an African tour that would take him to Egypt, Nigeria and Libya in October. Mr. Erbakan last month sent two of his ministers to Tripoli in a bid to convince Libya to pay up the $320 million owed to Turkish contractors involved in construction work in Libya. "We believe that Libya will pay what it owes to our contractors," Mr. Erbakan said. Mr. Erbakan went to Iran in August for his first trip abroad.

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Crown Prince voices concern over repercussions of UNRWA crisis on services for refugees

Jordan rejects attempts, if any, to gradually liquidate U.N. agency

'Israel should recognise not only refugees but also their rights'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Monday expressed its deep concern over the financial crisis facing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and stressed that the crisis was adversely affecting the services provided to the Palestinian refugees.

The crisis is also imposing a heavy economic burden on the Kingdom, which hosts more than 41 per cent of the total number of Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at an extraordinary meeting by the major donor nations to UNRWA and the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

"The issue of Palestinian refugees ... is a continuing humanitarian tragedy. Its resolution constitutes a major cornerstone in reaching a just and comprehensive peace. There are more than 3.2 million Palestinian refugees, of whom 41 per cent are hosted by my country and 38 per cent in the West Bank and Gaza," said Prince Hassan.

"They have paid dearly while waiting for the world community which witnessed their uprooting, to accord them proper treatment," he added.

He referred to the burdens shouldered by Jordan in serving the Palestinian refugees noting that the services cost the Kingdom more than $300 million annually.

"Palestinian refugees have not been basically employed by UNRWA but mainly by Jordan and the other Arab host countries. We undertook the effort as our duty towards a segment of our citizens. We have awarded Palestinian refugees Jordanian citizenship and they have enjoyed its amenities and they have participated in building Jordan," continued Prince Hassan.

"It (Jordan) never compromised their right to return and their problem in our view could be resolved with humanity and integrity," he added.

"I would like to reiterate that Jordan remains a close partner to UNRWA in supplying the refugees with the needed services. The 1994 commissioner report states and I quote "the support of the government was pivotal to the success of the agency's programmes, the services which the government itself provides to Palestinian refugees were critical to the well-being of the refugees and their sense of relative social and economic stability and security," the prince said.

"At this time when Jordan

(Continued on page 7)

MOSQUE ATTACK: Relatives look at injured boys lying on a hospital bed in Multan town of Pakistani Punjab province Monday. At least 21 people were killed and more than 50 injured when some unidentified gunmen opened fire in a mosque during the dawn prayer (see story on page 4) (Reuter photo)

Kuwaiti minister due in Amman

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's Islamic affairs minister is due in Jordan Tuesday in the first visit by a Kuwaiti cabinet member to the Kingdom since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. The state-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Monday the minister, Ali Al Zumaih, was representing his country in an Islamic ministerial meeting to be held in Amman. KUNA did not comment on the political significance of the visit. Several messages have been exchanged between senior Kuwaiti and Jordanian officials this year, and full diplomatic relations are expected to be resumed in the near future. Jordan's embassy in Kuwait has been closed since the war, but Kuwait's diplomatic mission in Amman is headed by a charge d'affaires.

Kabariti visits GHQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister and Defence Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday visited the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces where he met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai. The prime minister and Field Marshal Mirai discussed a number of issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

Nablus football game turns violent

NABLUS (AFP) — Three people were wounded Monday when Palestinian police opened fire at angry fans who flooded onto a football field during a match between West Bank teams, Palestinian sources said. The match was being held at a Nablus stadium between teams from East Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Tulkarem when fans from Tulkarem stormed onto the field and tried to attack the referee, witnesses said. Police were unable to get the crowd under control and some fired their guns, wounding three people, the sources said. There was no immediate comment from police and further details were not immediately available.

Hizbollah hits SLA post

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas attacked a position of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in an occupied border zone on Monday, security sources said. Eight mortar shells landed near the militia post in the Tumat-Niha region, at the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, the sources said. There were no reports of casualties. Hizbollah said its attack "scored direct hits and inflicted casualties." The attack came on the eve of another meeting of a five-nation committee monitoring an accord to spare civilians, following clashes last week in which two Israeli soldiers died and two Lebanese civilians were wounded.

Argentina wants Falklands talks

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Argentina urged Bri-tain Monday to hold direct talks on the sovereignty of the Falkland islands, calling for "a peaceful solution" to the long-running dispute. In a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said: "We would like to sit down at a table, even if it is to express our disgareement."

Last U.S. soldiers deploy in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The last batch of U.S. troops to arrive in Kuwait set up their camps on Monday and prepared for live-fire war games in the desert as the United States signalled its crisis with Iraq was easing.

The last troops arrived in Kuwait from Fort Hood, Texas, on Sunday, bringing the total number of reinforcements to arrive in four days to "approximately 3,000," Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Nickerson said.

Diplomats said the latest showdown appeared over, however, with some saying Washington had reasserted its commitment to defend Kuwait and Saudi Arabia while revealing a lack of vision on how to deal with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"The American action in the short term was a success. It gave a lesson to a dictator who remains dangerous," commented one European diplomat.

But he added: "Everyone feels the time has come to look to the future of this country (Iraq). I feel even Washington is asking these questions."

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday that Iraq was backing away from its threats, adding the Pentagon might send home one of its two aircraft carriers in the area, the USS Carl Vinson, in the next week.

U.S. President Bill Clinton ordered the buildup in the Gulf region, including sending extra ground troops and a second aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, after Iraq fired missiles at U.S. planes flying over Iraq two weeks ago.

Mr. Perry said the troops were being sent to Kuwait because it felt threatened by Iraqi statements charging that its decision to allow in US F-117s Stealth bombers was "an act of war."

President Saddam vowed to shoot down U.S. warplanes after U.S. forces hit his southern air defences and expanded the southern no-fly zone in retaliation for his intervention into northern Kurdish safe havens on Aug. 31.

But a U.S. official in the

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq says army ready to defend its sovereignty

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq's air force was ready to intervene during the latest showdown with the United States and the military remains prepared to defend Iraqi sovereignty, Defence Minister Sultan Hashem Ahmad said Monday.

But General Ahmad signalled the crisis with Washington was easing and also said Baghdad preferred diplomacy to block a Turkish plan to create a "security zone" inside Iraq.

"The air force had been ready to intervene and had been waiting for orders to join (the battle) when the moment came," Gen. Ahmad, speaking in the past tense, told the newspaper Al Thawra.

He praised Iraq's air-defence forces for firing missiles at U.S. warplanes earlier this month after Washington attacked air defence sites in southern Iraq and expanded the "no-fly zone" in the region.

President Saddam Hussein announced after the first U.S. missile strike on Sept. 3 that his forces would no longer respect no-fly zones in the south and north, but he called off the attacks on U.S. warplanes 10 days later.

Washington's cruise missiles strikes on Sept. 3-4 were in retaliation for Iraq's incursion into a Kurdish "safe haven" set up by U.S.-led allied forces in northern Iraq following the 1991 Gulf war.

"Our forces are always ready militarily and psychologically to challenge enemies" and defeat "any moves to undermine our sovereignty, our land and our people," Gen. Ahmad said.

"The Iraqi leadership believed it was necessary at this time to use diplomacy to oppose this plan" for a Turkish security zone inside Iraq aimed at preventing cross-border attacks by Turkish Kurd rebels.

But he added: "Our mission is that our forces be ready to defend our borders when they're asked to. Even America and Britain did not frighten our army."

The general also said "the firmness" with which Iraq responded to the United States "provoked a positive change on the Arab, regional and international level.

"Many countries have started to declare their

(Continued on page 7)

Barzani reportedly refuses to fight PKK

ANKARA (AFP) — Massoud Barzani, leader of the Baghdad-allied Iraqi Kurds, has turned down a request by Turkey to fight separatist Turkish Kurds based in northern Iraq, a newspaper reported Monday.

"The Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) is Turkey's problem, and we cannot solve this problem on behalf of Turkey," Mr. Barzani told the left-wing Istanbul newspaper Cumhuriyet.

"Accordingly we have not asked for arms from Ankara for use against the PKK," Mr. Barzani said in the headquarters of his Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Salahuddin in northern Iraq.

Mr. Barzani had talks on Iraq with Turkish and U.S. officials in Ankara last week.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said Sunday that Turkey had asked Mr. Barzani to act to eliminate the PKK's presence from the border area.

"Turkey is determined to take all measures against terrorist activities in northern Iraq. In this respect Turkey is also ready to help him (Barzani) in a move by his forces to destroy the terrorists," Mrs. Ciller said in a statement.

Ankara complains that the PKK, which has been waging a separatist war in southeastern Turkey since 1984, has been launching attacks against Turkish targets from its bases in northern Iraq.

The KDP has gained control of almost the whole of northern Iraq in a joint military campaign with Baghdad forces against the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of Jalal Talabani since late August.

In a related development, the Turkish Foreign Ministry denied that Ankara had given up plans to create a security zone on the Iraqi side of the border to prevent infiltration by PKK rebels into the country.

"All necessary measures, including the security zone's creation, will be taken when deemed necessary," ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanli told a news briefing.

"We have been emphasising our determination to provide border security," Mr. Atacanli said.

Turkey announced plans for the security zone along the 300-kilometre Iraqi frontier in early September following the joint offensive by KDP forces and Baghdad troops. However, since then it has not acted to materialise the project.

Both the Iraqi government and Mr. Barzani have denounced the move while the United States expressed understanding for Turkey's efforts for border security.

"I have told Ciller in Ankara that we would not agree to the setting up of the security zone," Mr. Barzani told Cumhuriyet.

"Indeed Ciller told me that this issue was not on Turkey's current agenda," he said.

Lebanon strengthens defences in south

RASHAYYA, Lebanon (R) — Lebanon is reinforcing defences in the west of the Syrian-policed Bekaa Valley opposite Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone, Lebanese security sources said on Monday.

"In light of Israeli threats to Lebanon and Syria, the Lebanese government decided to reinforce its front line with Israel, especially in the Bekaa area," a security source told Reuters.

"The movement of hundreds of Lebanese army commandos which began on Friday is still underway," the source added.

Tension rose in South Lebanon after the pro-Iranian Hizbollah killed two Israeli soldiers on Thursday in the bloodiest attack in three months. In retaliation, Israeli jets and gunners bombarded South Lebanon villages, wounding a Lebanese woman civilian.

Security sources said reinforcements — including vehicles, artillery and armoured personnel carriers — were positioned on the front line, midway between the Lebanese-Syrian border and the edge of a 15-kilometre-deep Israeli South Lebanon occupation zone.

The Lebanese army was closely coordinating moves with the Syrian army, the sources added.

Some 12,000 of Syria's

(Continued on page 7)

Palestinian shot after hitting Israeli vehicle

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — A Palestinian was shot and wounded Monday by Israeli soldiers after slamming into a military vehicle near the Israeli settlement of Alfai Menashe on the occupied West Bank, Israeli sources said.

Several Israeli soldiers were bruised after the Palestinian hit their jeep. The Palestinian driver then tried to flee. The soldiers opened fire, wounding him, the same sources said.

According to the initial inquiry, the Palestinian vehicle did not contain any explosives, they said.

Israel completely sealed off the Palestinian territories for the Jewish day of atonement, Yom Kippur, and put strict security measures in place to prevent attacks.

Sick barred from entry

Palestinian officials and the sick were barred by the army from entering Israel on Monday because of the total shutdown for Yom Kippur, Palestinian police sources said.

Palestinian officials accused Israel of violating an agreement to allow members of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and sick persons to travel from Gaza City to the West Bank or East Jerusalem in case of emergency.

Palestinian newspapers published in East Jerusalem could not be distributed in the Gaza Strip because of the sealing off of the Palestinian territories.

Yom Kippur is the most important day in the Jewish religious calendar, when Jews worldwide seek pardon for offences they committed against God during the year.

Israel was virtually shut down from sundown Sunday to sundown Monday, with offices closed, public transportation halted and airports and ports sealed. Israeli Radio and Television networks also went off the air.

As a security measure against possible militant attacks, Israel sealed off the Palestinian territories, barring any Palestinians from leaving the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Peres worried about peace

Former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in a newspaper interview published on Monday that he was worried about the future of the Middle East peace process and said he hoped the region would not see war again.

Asked by an interviewer in Tel Aviv for the Italian daily La Stampa whether he felt the peace process was in danger, Mr. Peres answered: "Certainly yes, after the elections we are like a boat left without oars in the middle of a lake."

Mr. Peres, the Labour Party leader, was referring to Israeli elections in May when he was ousted as prime minister by Likud Party leader Benyamin Netanyahu.

He declined to give his opinion of Mr. Netanyahu. "On that point, I don't want

(Continued on page 7)

Kurdish refugees return to KDP-held north Iraq

BACHMAR, Iraq (AFP) — Iraqi Kurd refugees have started making the trek home from Iran to a northern Iraq now dominated by a faction which struck an alliance with the Iraqi army.

Small groups of young men crossed the Bachmar border post on foot, while entire families passed through crammed into the back of wobbly trucks.

They moved quickly without looking at the Peshmerga fighters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), who hold near-total control over Iraqi Kurdistan.

Most of the male refugees are fighters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which was routed from town after town earlier this month, at times without firing a shoot, before fleeing to Iran.

The PUK Peshmergas returned to Iraqi Kurdistan in plainclothes, disarmed by the Iranians who took their Kalashnikovs, according to KDP security chief Bakhtiar Gabrap.

Ghazy, Aleheddin and Mufaq were empty-handed apart from towels around their necks as they set off for the city of Penjwin, a half-hour drive from the border.

"We fled from Erbil because we feared the Iraqi army," Mr. Ghazy said, referring to the army's incursion into the main city of Iraqi Kurdistan on Sept. 31 that sparked the PUK's defeat.

The three complained of ill treatment at the hands of the Iranians, but other refugees said the Iranians fed them.

Leila also crossed the border river on a bridge that is decorated with portraits of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

She had tried to convince her husband, a fighter of the PUK leader by Jalal Talabani, to return to northern Iraq, "but he was afraid to go back" to the city of Sulaimaniyeh.

However, the KDP has given guarantees to PUK fighters who want to return and denied any Iraqi army presence in the region.

"Their families are coming to see us, and we are giving them permission to return," the new KDP-appointed governor of Sulaimaniyeh province, Faiq Tawfiq, told AFP.

"But (PUK leader Jalal) Talabani's radio station is broadcasting false information: They say that we are hanging PUK members."

More than 200 Kurdish refugees spent several hours Sunday at the border. The move to return began several days before, but no precise numbers have been established.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and foreign aid agencies have stayed away from the border since four of them were kidnapped by Kurds who handed them over to the Iranians almost two weeks ago.

The Iranian Red Crescent has 65,889 Iraqi Kurd refugees in five camps, aid officials in Geneva said Friday.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said the camps were located in the Iranian provinces of Kurdistan and Kermanshah, as well as in neighbouring Azerbaijan.The Red Crescent said that it was assisting other refugees living outside the camps, and that some 150,000 Kurds were also massed on the Iraqi side of the border.

The refugees coming back face long power cuts each day because the Dokan Dam which supplies electricity to much of Iraqi Kurdistan has been out of order since the KDP drove out the PUK.

"The PUK took away the electronic cards used to activate the five turbines. They only forgot one behind," said the new director of the hydro-electric power station, Mohammad Amin Hassan.

STREETS TURNED PLAYGROUND: Israeli children ride their bicycles in a Tel Aviv street on Monday. It is customary that children ride in the streets on Yom Kippur, the Jewish day of atonement, when motorists traditionally stay off the roads (Reuters photo)

Most Egyptians want to sever ties with Israel or war – paper

CAIRO (AFP) — Most Egyptians would back a break in ties with Israel or even a war because of the "provocative" statements by right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, the government daily Al Akhbar said Monday.

"Netanyahu's statements against Egypt have provoked many Egyptians and if we had polling institutes a majority of Egyptians would no doubt have called for a break in ties with Israel," Al Akhbar columnist Ibrahim Seeda said.

Mr. Seeda, who has close links with President Hosni Mubarak, also expected that if the Egyptian people were polled, most would also "call for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador or beat the drums for a new Egyptian-Israeli war."

He also accused Israeli television of having censored an interview which Mr. Mubarak gave to the second channel last week.

"The Television censorship in this so-called oasis of democracy carefully cut out all the statements made by Mr. Mubarak concerning the Arab attachment to the peace process and calling on Israel to act quickly to achieve peace."

Mr. Netanyahu angered Cairo last week when he reacted to an Egyptian threat to scrap a regional economic conference by saying: "Whoever is trying to cancel it is looking to cutting off his own nose."

Then he lashed at Cairo, during a meeting with U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, saying Egypt had "crossed every line" with threatening statements and military manoeuvres.

Mr. Mubarak struck back on Sunday saying Mr. Netanyahu was "trying to create a problem" with Egypt over last week's Badr 96, saying they were the same as manoeuvres staged in 1993.

"At that time the Israelis expressed no concern," said Mr. Mubarak, suggesting that Mr. Netanyahu should have called him to discuss his fears.

Mr. Netanyahu, who has constantly linked Israeli security to the peace process, criticised Egypt saying: "After 17 years at peace with us, Egypt is talking about military manoeuvres in preparation for war against a neighbouring state and of the military option.

"This is not a sign of peaceful relations."

The first undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Adel Al Safti, has recommended that Mr. Netanyahu see a psychiatrist to solve his fears concerning Israel's security.

Meanwhile the pro-government weekly Rose Al Yousef questioned Israel's delay in naming a new ambassador to Egypt after the departure in mid September of former Ambassador David Sultan.

"If this is a diplomatic manoeuvre or a political message addressed to Egypt, it is doomed to fail," Rose Al Yousef said.

But according to Israeli newspaper reports, candidates have shied away from the ambassadorial job because of the isolation in which Israeli diplomats live in Egypt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Groups protest Egyptian 'heresy' decision

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A coalition of 22 international groups Monday criticised an Egyptian court order forcing the wife of a Cairo University professor to divorce him for "heresy," the coalition reported. In a statement released by coalition member Human Rights Watch, the groups — including the National Association of Arab Americans and the Muslim Public Affairs Council — called the court's action "a flagrant violation of one of the most cherished of human rights." The coalition called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to intervene on behalf of the couple, and seek to block the verdict, which it said "emboldens the forces of intolerance" in Egypt. Nasr Hamed Abu Zeid and wife are fighting a June 1995 Egyptian appeals court decision branding Mr. Abu Zeid a "heretic," and requiring their marriage to be dissolved. Under Islamic law, a Muslim woman cannot be married to a non-Muslim man, and the Egyptian courts ruled that Mr. Abu Zeid, by virtue of his writings on Islam, was an apostate. After the Egyptian Supreme Court upheld the verdict Aug. 5, the couple began to pursue the matter before the court for emergency matters.

Widow of ex-Moroccan minister arrives in France

PARIS (AFP) — The widow of a Moroccan defence minister who died in mysterious circumstances after a failed coup against King Hassan II in 1972 arrived in Paris Monday with one of her sons after more than 18 years in house arrest. Fatima Oufkir joins four other Oufkir children who have left Morocco legally or snuck out since June and made their way to France. Her sixth child remains in Morocco but is allowed to travel. The late defence minister, Mohammad Oufkir, was officially stated to have committed suicide with three bullets to the head after the failed coup and was accused of treason. His widow and the six children were held without charge or trial for nearly 19 years in what Amnesty International said were "very harsh conditions" before being freed under international pressure in 1991. After that they were barred from leaving the country, until this summer when Moroccan authorities, responding to the escape of one of the children, gave valid passports to the widow and other five children.

Tajikistan expels Iranian diplomat

DUSHANBE (AFP) — Tajik authorities have arrested and expelled an Iranian diplomat because of unspecified "hostile acts", the ministry of security, formerly the KGB, said here Monday. A spokesman for the ministry said the unidentified diplomat was expelled on Friday but he would not elaborate on the nature of the "hostile acts" he is accused of committing. The Iranian embassy in Dushanbe refused to comment. Tajikistan's ruling party, made up of former communists and backed by Moscow, is fighting an Iranian-backed Islamic movement.

Uganda says Sudanese planes bombed town

KAMPALA (AFP) — Sudanese warplanes have bombed a military installation in northern Uganda just two weeks after the two countries agreed to normalise relations, Defence Minister Amama Mbabzi told AFP Monday.

Two Sudanese air force MiG warplanes on Sunday carried out three bombing raids near the installation on the outskirts of Moyo, 16 kilometres from the border, Mr. Mbabzi said.

The bombs missed their targets, he added.

"It is true we have been bombed by Sudan and it is surprising that even before the ink dries on the paper on which the agreement was signed they are carrying out air raids against our forces," said Mr. Mbabazi.

"Two MiG bombers flew overhead and them basically everyone got the hell out of there and hid in the bush. People began moving back into town yesterday evening," an independent source added.

He said that the bombs fell short of the Ugandan defence installation and that nobody was hurt. The raid was completely unexpected, he added.

Following Iranian mediation Sudan and Uganda agreed on Sept. 9 to normalise relations which have been severed since April 1995.

Kampala broke off diplomatic relations with Khartoum after accusing Khartoum of supporting rebels in the north of the country. Sudan for its part accuses Uganda of backing rebel groups in southern Sudan.

But a spokesman for the Sudanese embassy in Nairobi denied that Sudanese warplanes carried out the raids, saying Khartoum would never undermine the agreement.

"I can assure you that Sudan refutes and categorically denies the bombing and reiterates our commitment to the agreement recently signed in Khartoum," deputy head of mission Osman Ali Sadiq told AFP.

"We have never embarked on any counterproductive move that would undermine the implementation of that agreement. We will do our utmost towards the success of the Khartoum agreement," he added.

Sudan accused Uganda of supporting the southern Sudan rebel group, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), while Uganda accused Sudan of giving arms and safe haven to two northern Ugandan-based rebel movements — the Lords Resistance Army and the West Nile Bank Front (WNBF).

Bombs kill 3 in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Two bombs exploded in two Algerian towns over the weekend killing three people and wounding at least 16, an Algerian newspaper reported on Monday.

A carbomb targetted a security forces station in the coastal town of Gouraya, 90 kilometres west of Algiers on Sunday. Two people were killed and several wounded, said Al Watan.

The blast damaged houses, a local bank, a pharmacy and pylons and shattered windows of a school, it added.

The second bomb exploded at Zeboudja industrial centre in the western town of Chlef, 160 kilometres from Algiers, killing at least one person and wounding 16, Al Watan said. No one claimed responsibility for the two attacks. The authorities have blamed guerrillas for a series of similar attacks in the past four years.

A report last month by a government-appointed human rights watchdog, the National Observatory of Human Rights (ONDH), said about 1,400 people had been killed in bombs attacks blamed on guerrillas in the past two years.

Kuwait welcomes new Iraqi committee on missing

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait on Monday welcomed Iraq's decision to establish a committee to trace some 600 Kuwaitis and other nationals who have been missing since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

But Kuwait said it had doubts about Iraq's motives.

"We welcome any step that could lead to the release of Kuwaiti prisoners, if this is its purpose," said Ibrahim Al Shaheen, head of the Kuwaiti government's committee for the missing.

Kuwait says it has documented evidence the 600 were arrested by the Iraqis during the crisis and believes most are probably still held in Iraqi jails.

But Iraq has said repeatedly that it has no information on the missing Kuwaitis and cannot even confirm whether they are alive or dead.

It was not clear why Iraq decided to form the committee now, more than five years after the Gulf war.

However, resolving the issue is one of the conditions Iraq must meet before the United Nations will consider lifting comprehensive sanctions imposed following its 1990 invasion of the emirate.

Mr. Shaheen said he hoped the new Iraqi committee, announced Sunday, was not simply "a media manoeuvre."

"There is no reason for playing with the feelings of the prisoners' families," he said.

The Iraqi News Agency said the committee included representatives of the National Assembly, the Human Rights Society, the Iraqi Lawyers Association and the Red Crescent Society.

Its aim was to "provide the authorities with information about missing Iraqis and Kuwaitis and to receive citizens who want to give information about those who are missing."

The initiative reported in the Al Jumhouriyah newspaper was the first by Iraq which claims not to be holding any Kuwaiti prisoner since the end of the 1991 war.

Will establish offices throughout Iraq "to meet with citizens who might have information about the missing," Mr. Hadi called said, calling on Iraqis to "give all information they have on the fate of the missing."

The offices would then send the information to the authorities. Mr. Hadi said the committee would publish photographs of the Kuwaiti missing to help in the search.

The committee also included representatives of the families of Iraqis who disappeared, but no details were given on how and how many Iraqis went missing.

Iraqi newspapers published photographs of missing Kuwaitis in the year after the Gulf war and asked Iraqis to hand over any relevant information to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Kuwait said Baghdad has provided details on 126 missing, but added that it had lost trace of others freed in a Shiite Muslim uprising following the war.

A joint Kuwaiti-Iraqi committee meets regularly to discuss the fate of the missing under the auspices of the Red Cross and in the presence of representatives from Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain and France.

Kuwait along with the United States and Britain demand that the prisoner issue be settled in line with U.N. Resolution 686, before the embargo against Iraq can be lifted.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 .....Iris — The Happy Professor
15:20.....Captain Planet
15:45 .....Comedy — ALF
16:10 .....Road to Avonlea
17:00 .....News Flash
17:02 .....Sciences Cartoon
17:15 .....La Vie Devant Moi
17:30 .....Game Show — Les Bons Genies
18:00 .....Varieties — Le Grand Bazar
19:00 .....Le Journal
19:15 .....Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30..... News Headlines
19:35 .....Comedy — Blossom
20:00 Documentary — Man Alive
20:30 .....Encounter
20:45 .....Varieties
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 .....News in English
22:25 .....Mission Impossible
23:15..... China Beach
23:59 .....My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

04:03.....Fajr
05:20 .....(Sunrise) Duha
11:28 .....Dhuhr
14:55 .....'Asr
17:36 .....Maghreb
18:53.....'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church **Sweifieh.** Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising above average and winds easterly moderate, in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 16/31
Aqaba 22/38
Deserts 15/33
Jordan Valley 21/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Jbarah 847351
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507
Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb 875748
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy ...637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ya'coub Al Khatib 991772
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ...637111
Civil Defence Dept 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ..199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)..... 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Reparis 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority..... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity.....644281/6
Akileh Maternity.....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 777101/3
Al-Bashir.....775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital .....(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....(09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital .....(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital .....(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital .....(02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT
ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:00 .....Damascus (RJ)
07:15 .....Sanaa (RJ)
09:20 .....Beirut (RJ)
09:50 .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00.....Aqaba (add) (RJ)
11:10 Muscat, Dhabi, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
16:20 .....Cairo (RJ)
16:30 .....London (RJ)
16:40 .....Frankfurt (RJ)
17:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights
04:40 .....London (BA)
08:15 .....Cairo (MS)
12:40 .....Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:00 .....Riyadh (SV)
13:00 .....Munich (YP)
15:00 .....Rome (AZ)
15:30 .....Dubai (EK)
18:35.....Amsterdam (KL)
19:20 .....London (BA)
19:20 .....Aden (IY)
20:10 .....Beirut (ME)
21:00 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 .....Bucharest (RO)
02:00 .....Kuwait (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:50 .....Aqaba (RW)
18:45 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:35 .....Beirut (RJ)
08:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10 ..Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:00 .....Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:10 .....Paris (RJ)
12:15.....Cairo (RJ)
13:05 .....London (RJ)
13:55..... Madrid (RJ)
20:20 .....Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 .....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:45 .....Damascus (RJ)
21:20 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 .....Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights
07:45 .....Beirut (ME)
08:15 .....London (BA)
09:15 .....Cairo (MS)
13:30 ..Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
14:30 .....Riyadh (SV)
14:45 .....Munich (YP)
16:00 .....Rome (AZ)
16:30 .....Dubai (EK)
19:45 .....Kuwait (KL)
20:20 .....Aden (IY)
22:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 .....Bucharest (RO)
03:00 .....Amsterdam (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:00 Aqaba (Marka Airport (RW)
19:30 Aqaba (Marka Airport proceeding to QAIA) (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	700/500
Banana	600/600
Banana (mukhammar)	520/520
Banana (imported)	760/500
Cabbage	130/80
Carrot	300/150
Cauliflower	500/300
Cucumber (large)	150/100
Cucumber (small)	280/180
Eggplant	240/150
Fig	300/200
Garlic	700/450
Grapes	440/300
Guava	820/400
Lemon	350/250
Marrow (large)	180/120
Marrow (small)	340/200
Mulukhiah	120/70
Onion (dry)	160/90
Okra	1200/700
Pea	680/400
Pepper (hot)	340/200
Pepper (sweet)	350/200
Plum	650/400
Pomegranate	380/250
Potato	250/150
String Bean	730/400
Sweet melon	380/250
Tomato	220/120
Water melon	200/140

Prince discusses Jordanian-Euro partnership with German minister

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — HRH Crown Prince Hassan stressed the need for a political, economic approach in the Middle East which highlights an "anthropolitical" indicator whereby social conditions and productivity are enhanced .

In a meeting with visiting former German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Prince Hassan referred to a national JD 200 million water project which entails transferring water from the south to the central and northern parts of the Kingdom, a project in which he hoped the German government might demonstrate interest.

The Crown Prince referred to Jordan's debt burden and suggested that such debts be turned into grants for the financing of long-term projects, to help the country address poverty and to improve the situation of the refugee camps.

Mr Genscher stated himself impressed by Jordan's achievements in the field of privatisation.

He expressed optimism about the prospect of Jordan's partnership with Germany and the European Union and promised to relate prospects for bilateral cooperation to his German colleagues.

Mr. Gencher later met with Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and reviewed the nations' alliance as well as a number of issues of common concern such as ongoing efforts to encourage the Middle East peace process.

HRH Princess Basma Monday meets with delegates to discuss methods of ameliorating women's status in the Arab World (Petra photo)

Princess creates Arab fund to aid women's organisations

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Monday hailed the outcome of a two-day meeting with representatives of Arab non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and stated hope that the recommendations and resolutions reached would help further Arab women's status and promote their capacities in social, political and economic fields .

Speaking with delegates at a meeting in her office, Princess Basma affirmed these meetings offered an opportunity for women from the Arab world to exchange views on women-related dilemmas as well as the means of their resolution.

The Princess and the delegates reviewed a series of recommendations issued at the meeting's final session as well as a plan of action which they had endorsed and decided to submit these documents to the Arab Ministers of Social Affairs, convening in Amman this week.

The delegates recommended that a special Arab fund be created to offer assistance to women's organisations and that a pan-Arab federation of Arab NGOs be formed to coordinate activities .

The delegates' aspirations included: that Arab citizens be allowed to travel freely within Arab countries with no restrictions, that Arab governments recognise and protect Arab women's rights and the removal of all forms of gender discrimination.

The delegates also called on Arab women unions and organisations to pool their efforts in the common struggle of demanding the release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails and they requested that Arab countries join them in their drive to insist that Israel withdraw from all occupied Arab territories .

They praised Princess Basma's continued efforts to energetically promote the status of Arab women.

Festival to highlight poetry in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid Tourism Office (ITO) will host a festival to run on Sept. 26 and 27 in celebration of International Tourism Day in the town of Um Qais, 120 kilometres north of Amman.

The ITO director Monday announced that the festival, which will be conducted in the ruins of ancient Gadara (modern Um Qais), will comprise a tourism fair, traditional costume demonstration, a joint Jordanian-Iraqi folkloric production and poetry recitals.

The historical play entitled 'Gadara rises anew' will also be enacted for the festival, he said, adding that sports and voluntary works will equally play a role.

A race among Irbid athletes is also scheduled on the programme, the director stated.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

*Children's film "Number Times" at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.
*Iranian film "Narjis" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.
*German film "Der Weltmeister" (with subtitles in English) at Goethe-Institut at 8:00 p.m.

CHINESE FILM WEEK

*Two Chinese films entitled "Wudang" and "The Magic Sword" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Plastic art by Iraqi artist Widad Ayal at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Sept. 26.
* Works by Mohammad Al Jaloos entitled "Pathetic" at Baladna Art Gallery, at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 3.
* Works by Shereen Odeh at the Jordan Plastic Art Association, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 623297), until Oct. 1.
* Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.
* "Water colours works by Salam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 639303), until Sept. 26.
* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tamari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.
* Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled "Tapis Volants" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.

Price increases may cut 10% of family's income, NSCP

By Shehab Makahleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) confirmed that certain families will spend an additional monthly JD 23 due to extra expenses incurred by the recent price hikes of basic commodities.

NSCP President Mohammad Obeidat stated that "a recent study by the NSCP regarding extra expenses resulting from price increases of some basic foodstuffs, including bread, demonstrated that the additional expenses borne monthly by sundry families average to JD 22.87."

The surveyed commodities were: bread, with additional expenses reaching JD 7.24, 3.75 for noodles, beans incurred JD 3, yoghurt JD 2.1, table eggs, 1.6, tea, 1.4 , semolina,1.36, chicken, 1.2, falafel, .62, and crushed wheat .6, according to Dr. Obeidat.

He confirmed that the average income of the surveyed seven- member families came to JD 175 .

Dr. Obeidat added that some families who earn less than JD 175 have been badly affected and that such families pay up to 10 per cent of their income to cover the rise of bread prices. He further explained that the prices of such commodities 'might not be lower elsewhere in the world, but that average family incomes and salaries usually rise to compensate inflationary costs.

Dr. Obeidat explained that price reductions are equitable to salary raises as they increase consumer purchasing power. He opined that produce costs should not be allowed to float unchecked and further stated that although the country favours such floating with some safeguards, prices of tomatoes, potatoe, onions, cucumbers, and garlic should not be floated.

Opposition group decries continuing Israeli aggression

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 21-member opposition group in the Lower House of Parliament Monday issued an appeal to the leaders and parliamentarians of the Arab World for practical measures to deter Israel from pursuing further illegal actions, such as the desecration of the holy shrines of Jerusalem or further moves to Judaise the Arab city .

In a press statement, the group said that Arab leaders should realise that a serious conspiracy is underway and they should deal with the situation before it becomes too late.

"With deep concern parliamentary opposition is following ongoing events in Arab Jerusalem and Hebron [both of] which face illegal moves by the Israelis who are consolidating their occupation and pursuing efforts to ruin the Al Aqsa Mosque and change the historic Muslim and Christian religious character of the holy city," the statement said.

"While a Jewish conspiracy is being hatched against the Holy Land, the world remains passive and the Arab countries are [also] keeping silent about Israel's illegal practices. Recent decisions to allow Jews to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque, demolish sections of walls surrounding the Arab city and set up 1,800 housing units to absorb 10,000 new Jewish settlers are being ignored," the statement continued.

"Furthermore the Israeli authorities have been confiscating Arab residents' identity cards and taking measures to rid Jerusalem of its Arab inhabitants," the statement added.

Referring to Israel's delaying withdrawal from Hebron, the statement said that the new government has shown itself adamant vis- a-vis the implementation of the Oslo agreement which calls for Israel to remove forces from the city and that instead it is taking measures to Judaise it .

In reference to Syria, the statement said that Israel is attempting to coerce Syria and Lebanon to comply with its agenda in ratifying a separate accord.

The statement regretted Israel's amassing troops along its Lebanese and Syrian borders as threats directed against the two countries and a prelude to renewed aggressions.

The statement expressed total solidarity with the Lebanese, the Palestinians and the Syrians in the face of stated Israeli onslaughts and in their struggle for liberation.

Palestine communications receive Kingdom's expertise

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh Monday said that Jordan is ready to supply the Palestine National Authority (PNA) with Jordanian experts to help develop its post and communications system.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Palestinian Minister of Post and Communications Imad Falouji, Mr Saraireh said that his ministry is willing to arrange for the training of Palestinian cadres in the Kingdom as well as in Palestine self-rule areas and is equally ready to support the Palestinians in joining the U.N.-based Universal Postal Union (UPU).

He said that the Ministry of Post and Communications has already sent experts to the Palestinian self-rule areas to aid in the training of a number of local telecommunications workers there.

Mr Falouji stated after the meeting that the telecommunications sector in the Gaza Strip is undergoing modernisation and that this issue was discussed with his Jordanian counterpart.

"We also discussed Jordan's help in linking the Palestinian telecommunications networks with those of other Arab countries and the world at large," he added .

Earlier Monday the Palestinian minister was received by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti who reviewed Jordanian- Palestinian relations and telecommunications collaboration.

Mr Falouji conveyed a message from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to the Prime Minister regarding the general situation of the self-rule areas.

Mr Saraireh was present at the meeting as was Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Omar Khatib.

Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh Monday meets with his Palestinian counterpart Imad Falouji to discuss training Palestinian telecommunications workers in the self-rule area (Petra photo)

Minister reviews water, culture with French delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irsheidat Monday met with a visiting French parliamentary delegation to discuss potential French collaboration in archaeological excavations and the restoration of ancient sites in Jerash, Amra Castle and Iraq Al Amir.

The two sides also reviewed French contributions in developing the hotel training college at Ammoun Hotel in Amman as well as current preparations for Jordan's Cultural Fair slated to be held in Paris in March of 1997.

The coming fair will also spotlight tourist attractions in the Kingdom, the participants said.

Jean Bardert, who led the French delegation, underlined the importance of maintaining strong cultural cooperation in its relations with Jordan.

He said France will continue to support Jordan's efforts to preserve its cultural heritage .

Subsequent to the talks, the French delegation met with Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kawar, who stated that discussions covered water resources in the Middle East, the water dilemma facing the Kingdom and slated joint irrigation projects.

He confirmed that numerous French companies have expressed interest in participating in water and sewage projects in the Kingdom and that the parliamentary delegation familiarised itself with various projects the Ministry of Water considers to be urgent.

These projects, he said in a statement, run within the Amman and Zarqa governorates as well as the Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant which is the largest in the Kingdom.

The French delegation expressed interest in helping Jordan draw water from Wadi Mousa, to the east of the Dead Sea, and in working on the proposed Red Sea-Dead Sea canal.

Monday the delegation visited the Jordan Valley and inspected irrigation plans.

The delegation had met earlier with Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi who expressed Jordan's enthusiasm in promoting ties with France and maintained the Kingdom's deep appreciation for France's continual assistance in economic, scientific, technical and educational fields.

Mr. Lawzi described Parliamentary procedure and the democratic process to the committee which was comprised of social and cultural delegates from the French National Assembly.

Minister meets with USDA, reviews commodity prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Munir Sobar Monday stated that the government seeks to liberalise commodity prices during the coming year in conformity with new economic policies and the requirements of a market economy.

The government is determined to privatise public sector institutions, encourage the private sector to play a stronger role in economic development and remove barriers and restrictions on free trade, the minister said while meeting with a delegation representing the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

As an initial step for the implementation of these policies, he said, the government has modified wheat subsidies which resulted in higher grain and animal feed prices more closely resembling their counterparts on international markets .

By substituting the former subsidy system with a cash payment the government made strides towards consumption control and waste prevention, Mr Sobar said.

Since the government lifted the bread subsidy last month the flour mills have reported a decline of 44 per cent in flour production, the bakeries have reported a drop in bread production of 35 per cent and, he continued, the government expects this lessening trend to stabilise at 30 to 35 per cent .

The government has permitted private sector merchants to market imported sugar and rice but the Ministry of Supply will maintain a strategic storage of food to ensure availability of essential commodities, Mr. Sobar affirmed.

He told the visiting delegation that the Ministry of Supply still maintains price controls of 25 commodities as well as ensuring the quality of the goods displayed for purchase in the local markets.

Mr Sobar also reviewed ways of bolstering Jordanian-US trade.

INVITATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL TENDER

1. Mu'tah University invite specialized and experienced international companies to submit their bids to the tender for the integrated project "A Modern Computer Center at Mu'tah University" involving the supply, erection, start-up, technical assistance, maintenance and training to trainers to handel the equipment.

2. Bidders should submit a financial offer to the best terms and conditions available in their countries. This financial offer should be a loan for fully financing the integrated project and available at present to the Government of Jordan including the detailed financing conditions, such as:
- Low interest rate - grace period
- semi, annual reimbursement.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and collect the Bidding Documents at the Liaison Office of Mu'tah University located on Samir Rifai St.-Jabal Amman between 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m Saturday through Thursday beginning September 23, 1996 to October 7, 1996.

4. Bidders may offer more updated version of the specific component and equipment called for.

5. Prices are to be quoted on the basis CIF Mu'tah University excluding custom duties and other official taxes And charges, but including 12 month on site warranty and installation.

6. Specifications should be according to specifications stated in the project document which will be handed to the bidders.

7. The offer will be evaluated technically and financially according to our specification and requirement. Contract will be awarded to the best evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contract to be signed.

8. A complete set of the Bidding Document may be obtained from above reference office upon submission of a written application and a payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of Mu'tah University. The price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent in Jordanian Dinars or US$ currency of the following amounts:

** For delivery to personal callers $ 400.000 per bid document.*
** For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service $ 450.000 per bid document.*
** For delivery to Overseas Bidders by courier Service $ 550.000 for bid document.*

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon at 12 o'clock, on Oct 30 1996. Bids shall have a validity of 60 days.

Mu'tah University

Pakistan calls out troops after 21 killed in mosque

ISLAMABAD (R) — Fresh violence erupted in Pakistan Monday as gunmen killed 21 worshippers at a Sunni Muslim mosque and police fired at demonstrators loyal to the slain brother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Troops were deployed in armoured carriers near Al Khair Mosque in the central city of Multan to quell unrest after four attackers shot dead 21 Sunni Muslim worshippers and wounded many more.

Witnesses said soldiers were enforcing an undeclared curfew in the area, where angry crowds earlier fought police and stoned Shi'ite Muslim neighbourhoods in protest at the dawn attack.

Shops in the city, in the populous province of Punjab, were shut and many fearful residents stayed at home.

The attack followed the murder of a militant Shi'ite leader in Bahawalpur, 95 kilometres south of Multan, Sunday.

Sunni and Shi'ite militants have waged a bloody vendetta in Pakistan for several years. Shi'ites make up about 15 per cent of the country's 130 million people, most of whom are Sunnis.

The violence coincided with trouble in Bhutto's home town of Larkana, where police fought followers of her estranged brother Murtaza, killed by Karachi police Friday in a gunbattle.

Witnesses said two people were wounded when police fired bullets and teargas to disperse several hundred protesters near Murtaza's home on the last day of official mourning.

Sources in his breakaway faction of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), known as PPP-Shaheed Bhutto, said one protester had been killed, but this could not be confirmed.

The prime minister left Larkana for Karachi Monday, but her mother, Nusrat Bhutto, stayed behind for health reasons.

Murtaza's Lebanese widow, Ghinwa, was expected to fly to the southern port later in the day.

The PPP-Shaheed Bhutto faction invited Ghinwa to become its leader, but party sources said she was unlikely to declare her intentions until the 40-day Muslim mourning period was over.

Murtaza's group issued a statement Monday accusing police of shooting their leader and 11 of his followers in an ambush and delaying the transfer of the dead and wounded to a hospital, which was inadequately equipped to cope with the casualties.

Police say they fired in self-defence after Murtaza's bodyguards began shooting to prevent police checks.

Opposition politicians and newspapers criticised police for being trigger-happy and undisciplined. Karachi police were in action again Monday, shooting dead five armed robbers who did not inflict any casualties in the clash, police said.

Murtaza's killing has bereaved the powerful, but unfortunate, Bhutto clan for a third time in two decades.

Benazir's father, former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was hanged in 1979 by former military ruler General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, who deposed him in 1977.

Her younger brother, Shahnawaz, died in France in 1985, apparently from poisoning.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Murtaza's killing by police was "planned and motivated," and he was not just caught in crossfire, as another Murtaza supporter was wounded by police Monday.

The prime minister made the allegations, which contradict the police version, after reviewing a preliminary investigation into Friday's shooting, two of Karachi's leading newspapers reported Monday.

She also said his death was "a conspiracy to plunge the entire nation into a crisis" but she declined to say who she believed was responsible for the conspiracy, both the News and Dawn dailies said.

A Pakistani nurse treats injured patients lying on a hospital bed in the town of Multan in Pakistan's Punjab province Monday. At least 21 people were killed and more than 50 injured when four gunmen opened fire in a mosque during the dawn prayer (Reuter photo)

Greek Premier Costas Simitis (centre) waves to cheering supporters after his victory in the Greek national elections Sunday. Greece's rulling Socialist Party took a strong early lead in Sunday's national elections (Reuter photo)

Victorious Simitis forms cabinet

ATHENS (R) — Victorious Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, bolstered after winning a fresh four-year mandate, sets out Monday to form a new Socialist cabinet to tackle the country's economic problems.

His gamble to call a snap national election paid off and Sunday he triumphed over the challenging conservatives, winning a free hand to impose his pro-European, tight economic policies.

"Simitis took a big risk and won. The election win is wide and gives him a free hand for sweeping changes. We will see this in his new cabinet (expected to be announced) Tuesday," a former Simitis cabinet member told Reuters.

It was Panhellenic Socialist Party's (PASOK) first election battle without their late founder, flamboyant Andreas Papandreou who scored three landslide election victories in 1981, 1985 and 1993 with his free-spending pledges.

Mr. Simitis, 60, who told Greeks their future lies firmly inside the European Union and that they must make sacrifices to catch up with the group, starts negotiations with colleagues Monday and major ministries could change hands.

With almost all votes counted Monday the Socialists had 41.5 per cent of the vote and 162 deputies in the 300-seat parliament compared to the New Democracy conservatives who won 38.17 per cent of the vote and 108 deputies.

New Democracy leader Miltiades Evert swiftly offered his resignation after his defeat. The succession battle in his party is sure to weaken opposition to Mr. Simitis's policies.

The Defence, Foreign Affairs and Interior ministries were up for grabs while a number of young Socialist deputies would be moved up to junior posts. Socialist officials said.

Education Minister George Papandreou, the son of the late Socialist leader, could replace Theodoros Pangalos at the Foreign Ministry, they added.

Mr. Pangalos has angered Greece's allies with rude comments and has failed to win strong support within the EU for Greece in its disputes with neigbouring Turkey.

Interior Minister Akis Tsharzopoulos, Mr. Simitis's rival in the tough leadership battle that followed Papandreou's death in June, might head the Defence Ministry, replacing Gerassimos Arsenis, who was also a contender in that race.

Party sources said Mr. Simitis will opt to keep his economic ministers in place to signal continuity and stability for the markets, which rejoiced at his victory.

"We expected the Socialists to win and the market will show its satisfaction today on all fronts," said Panos Panayiotopoulos, chief money market dealer at Alpha Credit Bank.

National Economy Minister Yannos Papandoniou, who slashed inflation from double digits last year to 8.5 per cent in August, was expected to continue to work for Greece's joining the European Monetary Union sometime after 1999.

His immediate plans include spending cuts of $1.2 billion next year to trim the public debt and curbs on public hiring.

Mr. Simitis is also expected to keep Finance Minister Alexandros Papadopoulos, who proved an effective tax collector and must tackle a big deficit in next year's budget, officials said.

Sunday's election win was the third straight success in Mr. Simitis's meteoric rise. He won a PASOK parliamentary vote in January to succeed Papandreou as premier, and moved on to become PASOK president at a party congress in June.

Socialists went wild in the streets of Athens after the result was released, throwing an all-night party with horns sounding, fireworks exploding and revellers dancing in the streets.

John Kennedy marries in Georgia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Publisher John Kennedy Jr., son of the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy, has married girlfriend Carolyn Bessette in a weekend ceremony on a Georgia island, his family confirmed. "My cousin John did tie the knot," U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy said Sunday. The secretive ceremony took place Saturday on Cumberland Island, a rustic national wildlife preserve off the southern state's coast. The little church where they were married holds no more than 30 people. The 1953 Newport, Rhode Island, wedding of Kennedy's father and Jacqueline Bouvier featured some 1,200 guests. The best man was Kennedy's cousin Anthony Radziwill, son of his mother's sister, Lee Radziwill. Kennedy's sister Caroline Schlossberg, was maid of honour and her daughters, seven-year-old Rose and five-year-old Tatiana, were flower girls. After the ceremony, guests feasted on capon at the reception at the Greyfield Inn, a 30-room mansion built in 1902 by the Carnegie family and operated as a $250-a-night bed-and-breakfast by Carnegie descendants. A source close to the couple told the New York Daily News that the two were determined to get married in peace. "Even their closest friends didn't know about it until four days ago," said the source. "It was mostly family."

Dole continues to joke about his tumble

GRAYSLAKE, Illinois (R) — Republican presidential challenger Bob Dole made fun again Sunday about his accidental tumble from a stage in California last week. He told a rally here that it was a pleasure to "drop in" on the event, then saying perhaps those words were inappropriate, adding that "it was good to be here." "The first call I had after I fell was from a trial lawyer," said Sen. Dole, poking fun at trial lawyers who have been big contributors to rival President Bill Clinton's campaign. In Chico, California, last week, Sen. Dole fell off a stage nearly four feet high when an unattached railing gave way as he reached to shake the hands of well wishers. The 73-year-old candidate suffered a minor eye irritation but otherwise was unhurt.

Teenage runaway found in Germany

LONDON (AFP) — A British teenager who flew off to Malaysia last year with his father's passport and credit card has been sent home from Germany after running away a second time. Peter Kerry, 15, from Harrow, North London, hit the headlines in February last year when he ran away after a family argument, to be found six days later after a worldwide search. This time he had his own passport, a little money and a change of clothes. Last seen on Sept. 15 when he left home on his bicycle to do a paper delivery round, he was picked up at the weekend near Frankfurt, still on his bicycle... riding down an autobahn.

Soldiers hunt down child-killing leopard

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Eleven soldiers have been sent to remote Western Nepal to hunt for a leopard that has killed eight children, even taking one from its mother's lap, the Kathmandu Post reported Sunday. "The man-eater has been mauling and eating children ranging from 3 years of age to 14," it said, quoting Harihar Sharma, the chief district officer of Syangja district, some 2[illegible] kilometres west of Kathmandu. The soldiers left for the Syangja district villages of Sirsekot, Pidikhola and Kalikot, where many of the children were killed.

Suspect killed as British police foil IRA bomb plot

LONDON (R) — An Irish guerrilla suspect was killed in a shootout with police Monday during dawn raids that captured large quantities of explosives and appeared to have thwarted an imminent IRA bomb attack in mainland Britain.

In a swoop that crushed hopes the IRA might be preparing to call a new ceasefire, police arrested five people in London and Sussex in southern England and seized what they called "very large quantities" of bomb-making equipment and explosives.

Police in Yorkshire, Northern England, were also searching a number of homes but said no arrests had been made.

"The operation has undoubtedly frustrated a serious imminent IRA (Irish Republican Army) terrorist attack on the British mainland involving the deployment of a large vehicle bomb likely to have caused grave loss of life and massive disruption," police said in a statement.

The last IRA attack, in the northern English city of Manchester in June, injured more than 200 people with a bomb hidden in a lorry.

Few details were available of the shooting incident Monday in which police said one of the suspects was seriously wounded in a shootout.

The man later died in hospital of his wounds. Police said an official inquiry would be carried out. No one else was injured.

Prime Minister John Major said the raids put speculation about a new IRA ceasefire into "proper context."

"It remains impossible to reconcile Sinn Fein's rhetoric for peace with the IRA's preparations for murder," a spokesman quoted Mr. Major as saying.

Speculation has been rife over the past 10 days that the IRA was about to reinstate its ceasefire — a move that would allow its political wing Sinn Fein to take part in all-party peace talks about a political settlement for Northern Ireland.

The IRA, which seeks a united Ireland, dramatically ended a 17-month-long ceasefire in February with a bomb in London's Docklands commercial area, that killed two.

Citing what it called British intransigence in a peace process brokered by the Dublin and London governments, the IRA has since planted seven other bombs on the British mainland.

Police declined to confirm reports that Monday's haul contained enough explosives to make four bombs the size of that used in Manchester.

Speculation as to possible IRA targets centred on Britain's party political conferences which started Monday with the annual meeting of the minority Liberal Democrats.

One of the IRA's biggest successes was its bombing of the Brighton hotel housing then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her entire cabinet during the 1984 Conservative Party conference. Lady Thatcher was unharmed but five people were killed.

In July, British police arrested eight people and recovered bomb-making equipment sufficient for 36 bombs which they believe would have been used to target gas, water and electricity installations in London.

But politicians and security experts said Monday's find suggested the IRA was in fact stepping up its campaign.

18 killed as S. African mine workers clash

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The death toll in fighting between rival groups at a gold mine workers settlement northwest of here rose to 18 after renewed clashes Monday, police said.

Eight people were killed early Monday when the two groups clashed at the Springvale Farm Shack settlement near the town of Stilfontein, which is home to thousands of mine contract workers.

Eight people were also injured in the latest clash, which involved mostly hand-to-hand combat with traditional clubs and other weapons, police told the South African Press Agency.

Police spokesman Pieter Du Plessis said ethnic tension between Pondo- and Sotho-speaking workers appeared to be at the root of the conflict at the shanty town near the Buffelsfontein and Hartebeesfontein gold mines.

Ten people were killed and 12 critically injured Sunday when a group of men attacked the settlement with crude bombs, made with commercial explosive like that used in mine operations.

Eight blasts ripped through the shacks sending the residents fleeing in different directions.

As workers ran from the blasts, they were stabbed or slashed to death by their attackers and others were wounded by shrapnel, police said. Some bodies were found several hundred metres away from the settlement.

The explosive devices were placed on roofs and in doorways of shacks and some were thrown through windows, witnesses told the citizen newspaper in Johannesburg.

Yeltsin operation doubts leave Russia in power limbo

MOSCOW (AFP) — New doubts over the timing and risks of President Boris Yeltsin's heart bypass operation left Russia in limbo Monday ahead of a crucial medical council on how to proceed.

Head Surgeon Renat Achkurin said the operation, originally announced for the end of September, may be put off for as long as two months.

"This should be decided within one and a half to two months time," Dr. Achkurin said in an interview late Sunday with the commercial NTV Russian television channel.

Asked if the operation might be cancelled, Dr. Akchurin, who has been named the head surgeon, replied: "It is possible."

Dr. Achkurin said that Wednesday's medical council will analyse the results of tests that President Yeltsin has been undergoing over the last 10 days in the Central Clinical Hospital and then decide on the timing and strategy of the surgery.

Worries that President Yeltsin, 65, might not be healthy enough to undergo the bypass rose Saturday when Dr. Akchurin revealed in an interview with a U.S. television channel that President Yeltsin, who had two heart attacks last year, suffered yet another attack just before his July 3 reelection victory.

Dr. Akchurin has also stressed that what is usually routine bypass surgery will not be "a walk in the park" for President Yeltsin.

Media reports have suggested that President Yeltsin, believed to have a drinking problem, has additional ailments in other organs, such as his liver, complicating the heart operation.

President Yeltsin broke with the traditional secrecy over Russian leaders' health when he announced at the start of September that he would undergo surgery to cure his ischemia, a disease constricting blood flow to the heart.

But instead of clearing the air at the start of his new four-year term in office, President Yeltsin's hospitalisation has only fueled the power vacuum created by his near-disappearance after winning reelection.

Added to a possible delay of surgery for two months, Russian press reports have said that the president would need at least three months to recover, raising the prospect that President Yeltsin will remain secluded until well into 1997.

The Kremlin has tried to retain an image of order by maintaining that President Yeltsin still works on documents and signs decrees in hospital.

It has also been announced that the nuclear button briefcase will be handed over to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during the operation itself.

But critics are gathering force.

President Yeltsin's Communist rival in the elections, Gennady Zyuganov, has lashed out at the president for covering up his election-time heart attack and called on Russia to prepare for new elections.

And nationalist firebrand Vladimir Zhirinovsky mocked the decree on the nuclear button, saying the nuclear briefcase "is empty."

Dr. Achkurin said President Yeltsin himself was putting pressure on doctors to get on with the surgery, without which he would be forced to live a passive life and would not likely be able to serve as president effectively.

"There is this pressure, as it were, coming from the president (for an early operation), but we all are quite firm in our conviction that preparations should take a certain time," the doctor said.

But, he added: "The earlier the operation is carried out, the greater the risk."

If the operation is called off, Mr. Yeltsin may well step down, said Andrei Piontkovsky, head of the Centre for Strategic Studies in Moscow.

"I'm convinced that all this will be cancelled. Then President Yeltsin, after a fairly short meditation, will announce his resignation to solve the political crisis," he told AFP.

In that case, Mr. Chernomyrdin would become acting president and elections would be held within three months, according to the constitution.

Mr. Piontkovsky said that none of the rivals to succeed President Yeltsin — Mr. Chernomyrdin, Mr. Zyuganov and National Security Chief Alexander Lebed — is likely to act unconstitutionally.

"Everyone is trying to take advantage, but only in the context of a legitimate presidential election," he said.

"That was the importance of the precedent of the first elections" in July, he said. "A year ago it would have been complete chaos."

U.K. Liberal Democrats hint they would back Labour government

BRIGHTON, England (AFP) — The Liberal Democrat Party, centrist "third force" in British politics, opened its annual conference here Monday with coy hints at some form of association with the poll-leading Labour opposition.

The conference, first in the crucial season before general elections next spring, opened to an identity crisis after home affairs spokesman Alex Carlile indicated a merger with the "new labour" of Tony Blair was in the cards.

Although stressing that his view was a personal one, Mr. Carlile said he could envisage a future of just two parties in Britain, "one Conservative Party and the other a Democratic Party."

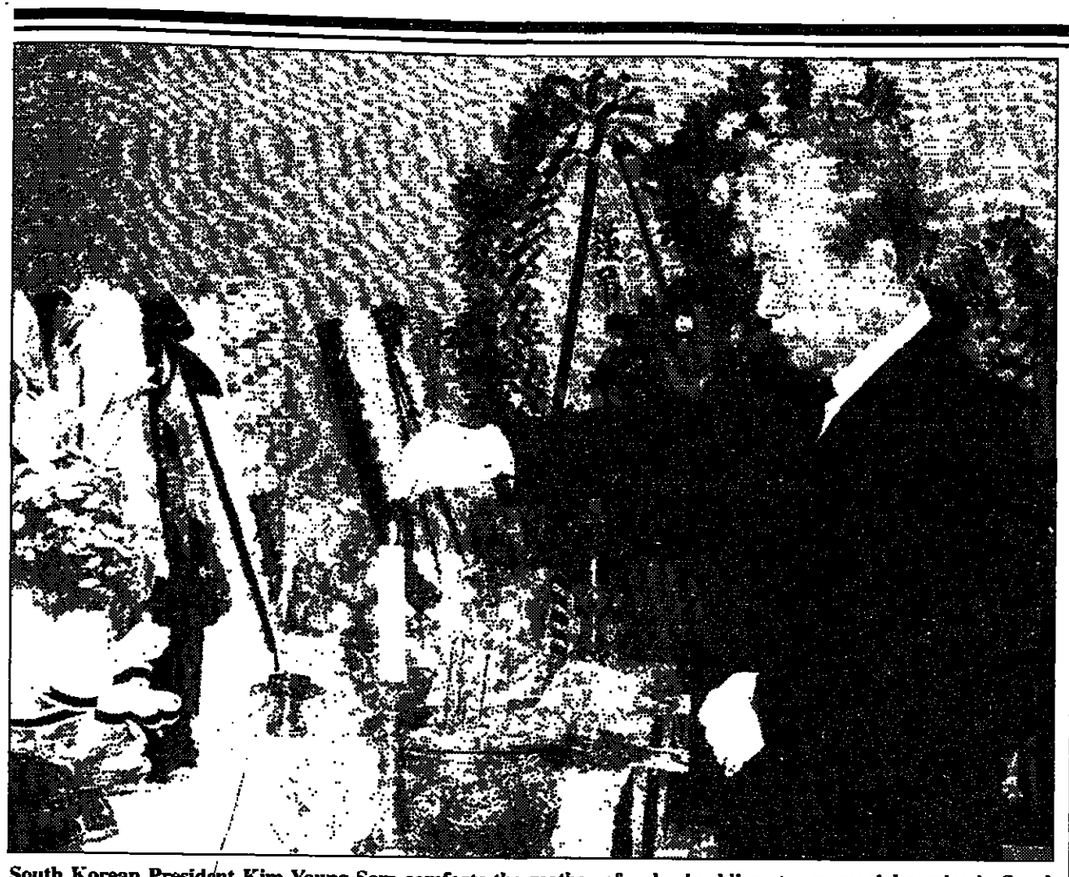
The second, he said, would be "A Liberal Democrat, or Social Democrat or Democratic Socialist Party...I don't think the terminology matters very much."

Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown refused to rule out cooperating with a Blair government, but made it clear a merger was out of the question.

And he warned that Labour, albeit it is in the throes of historic change, had a long way to go before it could count on his support.

It was still "possible," he said. "All the options are open...nothing is ruled in, nothing is ruled out."

But, speaking to the BBC as the conference got under way in this southern coastal city, Mr. Ashdown insisted his party would remain an independent force, despite Mr. Carlile's vision of a single centre-left party.



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam comforts the mother of a dead soldier at a memorial service in Seoul Monday. The soldier was one of three soldiers killed by North Korean infiltrators during a massive manhunt which has been taking place on the east coast of South Korea since a North Korean submarine ran aground last Wednesday (Reuter photo)

Seoul dismisses Pyongyang's submarine story

SEOUL (R) — North Korea said Monday a submarine found stranded off South Korea last week had drifted there after engine failure, and it demanded the return of the vessel and crew, including bodies of those killed.

It was Pyongyang's first direct comment on a drama that started Wednesday when an estimated 26 North Koreans came ashore on an east coast beach near the city of Kangnung.

Southern forces have killed nine intruders, found the bodies of 11 believed killed by their own colleagues, captured one North Korean alive, and lost three of their men. One civilian was also killed accidentally by southern forces as they continued hunting five North Koreans thought still on the loose.

South Korea dismissed Pyongyang's explanation and maintained the intrusion was a military provocation.

"The North Korean explanation about the vessel is nonsense. It is not worthy of consideration," a Defence Ministry spokesman told a news conference. "It is nothing but North Korea's habitual deceiptful policy to defuse critism.

"The intrusion was a carefully planned infiltration."

A statement by Pyongyang's Ministry of the People's Armed Forces carried by the Korea Central News Agency said the vessel was on a routine training mission when it developed engine trouble and ended up on rocks off Kangnung.

"It seemed that its crew were left with no other choice but to get to the enemy side's land, which might cause an armed conflict," the poorly-worded statement said.

"The South side must unconditionally return to the North the submarine and its crew including the dead bodies at once."

The statement said the submarine carried no heavy weapons and there were only small arms on board.

However, the South Korean joint chief of staff said a rocket launcher had been found on board.

North and South Korea have been technically at war since an armistice ended the 1950-53 Korean conflict and sealed the partition of the peninsula.

South Korea's parliament brushed aside Pyongyang's protestations of innocence and in a rare display of political unity adopted unanimously a resolution condemning the North.

"The act of infiltrating armed troops by a military submarine is not simply an espionage activity but an explicit military provocation and can never be tolerated," the 299-member National Assembly declared.

It called on the international community "to recognise the reality that the cold war still persists on the Korean peninsula and to cooperate in deterring North Korea's aggressive acts."

In a veiled criticism of the military's handling of the intrusion, the resolution urged the government to take measures to respond to guerrilla operations more quickly and restore the public's trust.

The mission to hunt down the intruders claimed its first civilian fatality when South Korean troops accidentally killed a man clambering up a mountain in search of wild mushrooms, a military official said.

The 56-year-old man was shot in an area where gunbattles had raged sporadically throughout the night.

Two South Korean soldiers were wounded and taken to hospital during the gunbattles, the official said.

President Kim Young-Sam visited a mortuary to pay respects to the three Southern soldiers killed in the hunt. He burned incense and paid condolences to bereaved relatives.

In Kangnung, more than 5,000 citizens staged a rally to denounce the incursion, which has ruined the area's all-important tourist industry ahead of the Korean thanksgiving holiday.

South Korea is trying to drum up an international campaign against Pyongyang over the incident, one of the deadliest incursions from the North since the early cold war. It has urged the U.N. Security Council to take action.

Armenian president heads for reelection

YEREVAN (AFP) — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian was ahead Monday as vote-counting from weekend elections continued, despite his failure during a first five-year term to end to the country's dire economic woes.

The incumbent had more than 50 per cent of the votes in two of the country's 11 voting districts, the Central Electoral Commission said.

If the trend from Sunday's election continues, Mr. Ter-Petrossian, 51, could win a first-round victory for a second and final term, during which he has promised to raise living standards.

Armenia is the smallest of the 15 former Soviet republics. This arid, landlocked country, devoid of natural resources, has battled during the past five years against massive industry shutdowns, widespread unemployment and an energy crisis caused by neighouring Azerbaijan.

Many of Armenia's 2.4 million electors blame Mr. Ter-Petrossian for the country's difficulties since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, which have driven hundreds of thousands to emigrate, mostly to Russia.

But Mr. Ter-Petrossian warned Friday that the election of market reformer Vazgen Manukian would wreck relations with Russia, disrupt energy supplies and reignite the war with Azerbaijan over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Manukian's headquarters meanwhile said Monday that preliminary results for the capital Yerevan showed their candidate in the lead with 57 per cent of the votes against 37 per cent for Mr. Ter-Petrossian.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan casts his ballot at a polling station in Yerevan, Sunday. With about 10 per cent of the votes counted from Sunday's presidential election, 51-year-old Ter-Petrosyan was leading with about 56 per cent to 35 per cent for former Prime Minister Vazgen Manukyan, according to the Central Electoral Commission (Reuter photo)

The Electoral Commission said it could not confirm this, saying it did not yet have results for the capital.

The commission said the president — who won a first term in 1991 with an overwhelming 85 per cent of the vote just after the tiny Caucasus state's break from the Soviet Union — had won 55 per cent of votes in the northeastern Lori voting district, which has 230,000 registered voters or 10 per cent of the country's 2.4 million voters.

Mr. Manukian, 50, who like Mr. Ter-Petrossian came out of the Armenian National Movement in the late 1980s and has the nationalist opposition behind him, took 36 per cent of the votes in Lori, the commission said.

In a smaller district, Vayods Zor in the south, the president took 58 per cent of the ballots against 32 per cent for Mr. Manukian.

Turnout was 56 per cent, according to the president of the Electoral Commission Khadjatan Bezirdjian.

The two other candidates are Sergei Badalian, 49, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, and Ashot Manucharian, 42, who is given little chance of winning because of his suspected links with the former KGB.

Mr. Manucharian virtually stepped down Saturday night when he called on voters to elect Mr. Manukian.

Mr. Badalian is expected to rally the elderly and the victims of unemployment, who look back with nostalgia on an era when Moscow ruled over the republic.

"Nowadays we can grow our fruits and vegetables, but we have no tractors, no vans to transport them, we may be less miserable than in the city but it is worse than the Third World," Nouribek Oganessian, one old Communist said.

Armenia has suffered an extraordinary exodus: Out of 3.7 million residents in the country, an estimated 400,000 to one million are now living outside the country.

Taiwan and Hong Kong boats repulsed at Japan-claimed isles

ABOARD THE CHANGCHUN (R) — Japanese patrol ships Monday repulsed a flotilla of Taiwan and Hong Kong activists trying to defy Tokyo's claim of sovereignty by landing on a disputed East China Sea archipelago.

Seventeen Japanese vessels backed by a helicopter thwarted eight landing attempts by placing themselves between the seven fishing boats and the uninhabited islands, claimed by Japan as the Senkakus but known to Chinese as the Diaoyus.

"Down with Japanese imperialism" activists shouted as Taipei County assemblyman and flotilla organiser Chin Chieh-Shou chanted "charge charge charge" from the Changchun's bow.

"Japanese dogs out of Chinese territory" some of the 20 protesters cried. "This is Chinese territory and these are Chinese waters."

Several Taiwan boats reached within 200 metres of one island where a Japanese flag could be seen fluttering above some abandoned buildings and a tower. All were repulsed.

A lighthouse built in July by Japanese ultra-nationalists and the Japanese Coast Guard's Sept. 5 expulsion of a Taiwan fishing boat have re-ignited a long-dormant dispute over the islands, claimed by Beijing and Taipei as well as Tokyo.

The activists had vowed to remove the lighthouse and flag.

The patrol boat crewmen, speaking only Japanese, ordered the activists to leave what they called Japan's territory, unlike the earlier confrontation when they spoke Chinese and flew a Chinese banner proclaiming Japanese sovereignty.

No shots were fired and there was no physical contact, although there were several brushes within 10 metres.

The Japanese made no attempt to board the Taiwan vessels.

The Taiwanese pilots finally aborted the protest mission, saying rising seas made further landing attempts dangerous.

"We will go back again with more people and more boats," Mr. Chin said en route back to Keelung Harbour. "We are confident that next time we will succeed."

Japan's Coast Guard confirmed repulsing seven vessels, some flying Taiwan flags, but gave no details.

"As a matter of routine we warned them to move out," a Coast Guard spokesman said by telephone from Japan's southernmost island of Okinawa, which has jurisdiction over the islands.

"There was no trouble or direct clash," he said.

The Taiwan group had hoped to plant the flag of the island's exiled Republic of China while the Hong Kong protesters carried the flag of its Communist rival, the People's Republic of China.

Chinese anger has swelled in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and China itself over Tokyo's tolerance of the rightists' actions and its view that its claim was not open to discussion.

Protests have become a near-daily occurrence.

On Sunday, thousands of anti-Japanese demonstrators marched through Taipei streets and some of them took turns flogging an effigy of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Taiwan pledged Saturday to defend the Diaoyus by force if necessary, but only as a last resort.

Tokyo's claim dates to 1895, when Japan defeated China and seized Taiwan and other territories. Beijing and Taipei say Chinese claims go back centuries but both have resisted calls to expel Japan by force.

Taiwan and China have been bitter rivals since a civil war split them in 1949 and the Republic of China government, defeated by the Communists, took refuge on Taiwan.

87 dead as fresh fighting rages in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Fighting raged in northeastern Sri Lanka Monday as troops mounted a fresh offensive to capture the political headquarters of the Tamil Tiger rebels, leaving 87 dead, officials said.

Hundreds of troops backed by tanks, artillery and aircraft advanced three kilometres into territory held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil EELAM (LTTE), the Defence Ministry said.

The Defence Ministry said the operation was aimed at "dominating" an area ahead of the newly captured town of Paranthan, just six kilometres north of Kilinochchi where the Tigers now have their political base.

"Domination of areas well ahead of Paranthan defences will continue," the ministry said, placing rebel casualties at 200 killed or wounded.

The LTTE moved their political headquarters to Kilinochchi when they lost their former base of Jaffna, further to the north, after a series of army operations begun in October last year.

Military officials said Monday that 22 soldiers, including an officer, were killed and 58 wounded in overnight fighting, while ground troops estimated at least 60 Tigers were killed.

As fighting continued in the north, the Tigers ambushed an army patrol in the east of the country Monday and killed five soldiers and wounded several others, defence officials said.

The Tigers attacked the soldiers who were on a routine patrol at Velani in the district of Batticaloa, officials said, adding that a search had been mounted for the gunmen.

The clandestine radio of the LTTE, the Voice of Tigers, said the military was pounding Kilinochchi and its suburbs to help the ground advance of the security forces.

Actress Dorothy Lamour dies at 81

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Dorothy Lamour, best known for her role as the sultry, romantic sidekick in the string of "road" movies starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, has died. She was 81 years old.

Lamour died at St. Vincent Medical Centre in downtown Los Angeles Saturday evening, just a few hours after being admitted with stomach pains, spokesman Ward Grant said Sunday. Earlier another spokesman erroneously said that Ms. Lamour died Sunday at her modest North Hollywood home.

Mr. Grant said the exact cause of death was not known.

Lamour's funeral would take place Thursday at St. Charles Catholic Church in North Hollywood and her body would be buried at the nearby Forest Lawn Cemetery, Mr. Grant said.

The image of Lamour that endures from movies of the 1930s and 1940s is of a breezy, seductive heroine clad in a colourful sarong. She first donned one of the sexy wraparound skirts in her film debut in Jungle Princess in 1936, and she would find herself in similar attire in many movies to come.

Lamour's big break came with her first role in a Hope-Crosby film, The Road To Singapore in 1940, and she went on to make a series of "road" pictures with the legendary comic duo.

Apart from her "road" movie roles, her career as a Hollywood star was relatively shortlived. But her seductive beauty and lively, self-mocking humour brought her continued popularity in nightclubs and on stage and television.

Bob Hope and his wife Dolores paid tribute to Lamour in a statement, calling her "one of the grandest ladies on or off the screen."

The daughter of a New Orleans waiter and waitress, Lamour was born Mary Leta Dorothy Kaumeyer. She later adopted the name Lamour, a variation of her stepfather's name, Lambour.

In 1931, she was voted Miss New Orleans and moved to Chicago where she operated a department store elevator before signing as a singer with bandleader Herbie Kay, who became her first husband.

Actress Dorothy Lamour (left), best known for starring in seven 'road' movies with Bob Hope(right) and Bing Crosby, died Sunday of unidentified causes. Lamour, who was 81, is shown here celebrating her 80th birthday as a street at Universal Studios Hollywood is renamed in her honour during ceremonies with Hope (Reuter photo)

A show at New York's Stork Club led to singing contract with NBC Radio and, eventually, her own radio programme in Los Angeles. She caught the attention of Paramount Studios which, because of her dark, somewhat exotic looks, cast her in 1936 as The Jungle Princess.

Lamour won praise for her acting, but she made the biggest splash for how well she wore a sarong. She later confided to an interviewer that she was mortified when she was first asked to wear one.

"I had to bite my lip to keep from crying," she said. "I'd been embarrassed to wear a bathing suit in the Miss New Orleans contest, and now Paramount Pictures wanted millions of people to see me in a little strip of cloth. I'd throw a robe over my sarong on the set."

Lamour's first big movie year, 1937, was mainly spent in supporting roles to other stars, but she also returned to the jungle in The Hurricane, with John Hall, an early special effects extravaganza. In 1940 she played a gangster's girlfriend in Johnny Apollo and appeared in The Road To Singapore, the first musical comedy with Hope and Crosby.

It was as the foil to Hope and Crosby in the "road" movies — films that combined adventure, slapstick and zany humour — that Lamour shone. Some of her other movies with them included Road To Morocco (1942), They Got Me Covered (1943), Road To Utopia (1946), and Road To Rio (1947).

It was in Road To Rio that Hope took one look at Lamour's tight-fitting sarong and quipped: "How did you get into that dress — with a spray gun?"

Of Hope and Crosby, Lamour would later say, "mostly they would ad lib, playing with the lines I'd worked so hard to memorise."

In 1953 Paramount reunited her with Hope and Crosby in the successful Road to Bali. She then announced her retirement to raise her two sons by advertising executive William Ross Howard III, who died in 1978 after 35 years of marriage.

She is survived by their two sons, Tom and Ridgely, as well as Stepson William R. Howard IV.

Indonesia's Megawati withdraws suit against officer

JAKARTA (R) — An Indonesian judge said Monday the country's ousted minority party leader had withdrawn a 50 billion rupiah ($21.74 million) lawsuit against a senior army officer over his remarks that she was planning a coup.

Judge Mohammed Tojib of the East Jakarta District Court said the defamation suit filed by Megawati Sukarnoputri against Lieutenant-General Syarwan Hamid, the chief of the Socio-Political Division of the armed forces, had been withdrawn following an out-of-court settlement.

Lawyers for Gen. Hamid said he had retracted comments that Ms. Megawati was planning a coup, which were reported by the Surya Daily on Aug.13.

They said the two sides had reached an out-of-court settlement but did not give details.

Ms. Megawati was not present in court but her lawyers confirmed the suit had been withdrawn. Ms. Megawati's chief lawyer R.O. Tambunan said no money was involved in the settlement and Gen. Hamid's retraction of his comments was sufficient.

Ms. Megawati, the daughter of late founding President Sukarno, was ousted from the leadership of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) by a government-backed faction in June.

Her supporters held almost-daily protest meetings against her ouster until a government crackdown on July 27.

Police raided the PDI office to evict her supporters, which led to riots in Jakarta in which at least five people died.

Some 200 people have been taken into custody in the wake of the riots, which the government says were instigated by a left-wing group which had infiltrated Ms. Megawati's supporters.

Ms. Megawati has also challenged her ouster as the PDI chief and that lawsuit is continuing.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: **684311, 699634**
Telex: **21497 ALRAI JO**
Facsimile: **696183**

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Brinkmanshi alternative to peace

THE LANGUAGE of exchange between Israel and Syria has turned more belligerent in recent days with both countries accusing each other of seeking escalation to the point of mutual military threats. The sabre rattling between the two sides took an ominous direction Sunday when Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai issued a warning to Damascus that his country's armed forces are strong. Ostensibly Israel's recent military warning to Syria came in the wake of Syria's redeployment of part of its troops in Lebanon which Syria asserts is the result of "increasing Israeli threats."

In reality, though, the heightened tension between the two countries is the direct outcome of recent proclamations by Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu ruling out a full Israeli pullback from the Golan Heights as the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged to do in return for peace. The hardline position being taken by the Netanyahu government on the Syrian front, not to mention the other remaining fronts, is bound to exacerbate conditions in the region and effectively derail the prospects for a comprehensive peace in the area. And when Egypt carried out military manoeuvres, Israel saw a growing military threat from the north and the south which was reminiscent of the 1973 Syrian-Egyptian military alliance that waged a surprise attack against it. Cairo took pains, however, to assure Israel that its military manoeuvres were not intended as hostile acts against the Jewish state even though the Egyptians saw in Netanyahu's negative stance on the peace process a step that could lead the region into renewed armed conflicts.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned recently that the continuation of the stalemate on the Palestinian front will lead to another Palestinian intifada on a scale not experienced by Israel yet. Mubarak hinted that Palestinians would use armed weapons instead of stones should another uprising break out.

Against this backdrop, the fears and warnings generated by Netanyahu's policies could be deployed for a useful purpose. By highlighting the dangers that loom in the horizon, if peace efforts are thwarted, Israel could be persuaded to accept the thesis that war conditions will prevail. The Israeli prime minister must be aware of the responsibility that will fall on his shoulders should the region find itself once again engulfed in tension and more conflicts whether on a scale of an armed Palestinian intifada or even war on one or two of Israel's flanks. This is a scenario that nobody wants to entertain but one that should not be dismissed. Should Netanyahu choose swim against the current of peace, a showdown of some sort will automatically become a viable alternative. It is simply as dangerous as that.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for **Al Ra'i**, said that through its acts of terrorism and attempts to impose its hegemony on the world, the U.S. is forcing other nations to resort to counterterrorism to deal with the American onslaught. Given that the U.S. is the greatest world power, it goes without saying that any attempt on the part of any other nations on earth to confront it would be a kind of suicide, said Fahed Fanek. The writer described America's actions in Iraq as systematic acts of terrorism against a small country of the Third World, committed for the sake of protecting U.S. selfish interests in the Gulf. He said that the Americans resorted to recruiting spies and agents, as well as other mercenaries, to work for it in northern Iraq, attacked Iraqi installations with the most advanced guided missiles and continues to besiege the Iraqi nation in a bid to subdue its people and the Arab countries at large. At the same time, Washington continues to disregard international laws and the U.N. Security Council and, instead, it is marketing its so-called "new world order," which is in fact the rule of the jungle. By so doing, said the writer, it is forcing the other nations to follow its example and adopt terrorism as a way for salvation.

COMMENTING ON the resignation of Trad Al Qadi from the Lower House of Parliament months after his election to represent the northern Badia districts, a writer for **Al Dustour** said the resignation is a way to escape from responsibilities to which the deputies have dedicated themselves. Hamadeh Faraaneh cited an implied criticism of deputies' resignations, as expressed by a visiting a French parliamentary delegation at a meeting with their Jordanian counterparts, and stressed that deputies have a duty towards their constituencies which elected them and must remain steadfast and patient while struggling to serve their districts and the country as a whole. A deputy who has pledged to pursue efforts to serve his country in the political, economic and social affairs ought to be backed by the public vis-à-vis the government, added the writer who said that while the government has funds, vast executive powers and backing from the media, the deputies have nothing except the confidence of the electorate. The writer said that if the deputies acquire backing and support from their districts and the public at large, they are bound to remain steadfast and refrain from shirking their responsibilities.

U.S. to the U.N.: Reform, else...

By John Gay Yoh

THE WASHINGTON ruling elite has been engaged for a while now in what amounts to be a fierce diplomatic war of attrition with the United Nations and its international elite at New York.

The Washington camp is pressing for a quick and dramatic package of reforms in the U.N. system. Failure to comply with its demand would lead to the U.S. pull-out from the United Nations altogether. Once that happens, the Washington leadership will file for the creation of a replacement of the U.N. with a new international organisation, "the League of Democracies" whose membership shall be restricted to Western democracies and their allies. The U.S. elite is determined to pioneer the establishment of this new organisation.

The chief of the U.S. campaign is Dr. Madeleine Albright and the spokesman is Senator Jesse Helms. The U.N. camp is headed by veteran Egyptian diplomat, Dr. Boutros Ghali, the U.N. chief. The two sides to the conflict seem to be determined to push on as December approaches.

The immediate questions that come to mind are: Why would Washington want to quit an organisation it helped and spent billions of dollars to create? What are the underlying reasons that forced Washington tycoons to file for divorce with the only organisation through which they managed for many decades to rule the world?

The first direct clue of U.S. intention to quit the U.N. was voiced by Senator Helms, chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, who was asked recently by a reporter whether Washington should withdraw its membership from the U.N., to which he responded "not yet"

Like several American big shots, Senator Helms is of the opinion that the United Nations does not deserve continued American support. All the American attempts to impose the reforms on the U.N. have failed; so has America's obligation to pay its financial dues to the organisation for the whole of the last decade.

The American elite is against Dr. Ghali's policy of "empowerment of the U.N." and indeed it is not happy with the U.N. becoming a "quasi-sovereign entity itself". For them the massage to the world community is: The next secretary-general must cut back the "U.N.'s overgrown bureaucracy" and limit its activities. In other words, the reform agenda of the next U.N. chief will determine whether or not the United Nations survives into the 21st century. If the American list of demands is not urgently met on time, "the next U.N. secretary-general could, and should, be the last".

It seems that the Americans are worried by the new priorities which the world organisation has introduced in its mandate, a move considered by them as a complete turn and deviation from the original U.N. agenda. In Washington's view, the U.N. bureaucracy has become a deadly virus which should be stopped from spreading.

What the Americans want is not just a simple reform of the U.N.'s organisms, but "preventing unelected bureaucrats from acquiring ever greater power at the expense of elected national leaders".

The U.S. number one target in this diplomatic war is Dr. Boutros Ghali, who has been doing nothing, according to Washington, but "protecting his 53,744 bloated bureaucrats and the number and nature of peacekeeping operations which has vastly expanded under his tenure".

The U.N. chief is also accused of focusing his mandate of caring for 5.5 billion people worldwide, a job which, the Washington elite believes, is not the U.N.'s. To quote Senator Helms, "the U.N.'s work is to help nation states solve their problems and help sovereign states work together, where appropriate, and stay out of issues where it has no legitimate role". For Senator Helms and his group, the U.N. does the opposite.

The Washington list of reforms begins with replacement of Dr. Ghali with a new, pro-American reform-oriented secretary-general, who will "go in on day one with a daring agenda to reduce the bureaucracy." He should begin with a 50 per cent cut in the U.N. organisation's staff, limit missions, workshops, expert consultations, conferences, refine objective... etc.

On budget, the U.S. suggests that the secretary-general should be limited to a "bare-bones budget of some $250 million, and the U.N. activities should be funded on voluntary basis". In other words, each nation state would get the value of programmes according to how much they are willing to pay.

The U.S. message to the gentlemen in the Plaza building in New York is: Either they reform the U.N. according to the American agenda or the United States will withdraw from the U.N. To put it differently, the international community should deny Mr. Ghali a second-term reelection to save the U.N. from his attitude of ignoring multiple warnings and his stubborn resistance to reforms. If this demand is implemented, Washington will consider it as a goodwill gesture and perhaps it reconsider its standing position of possible withdrawal from the U.N..

It seems therefore that the core of the problem lies with Dr. Ghali's presence at the helm of the world's biggest organisation. Mr. Ghali is considered by Washington to be a free-thinking man, a stubborn intellectual who does not abide by the rules of the "new world order" and who the Americans could not and would not tolerate.

The Americans are today convinced, more than ever, that the U.N.'s power base has moved from the White House-Congress-State Department-alliance to the U.N. General Assembly where the United States has no veto and where, to quote Senator Helms again, "every nation — whether democratic or dictatorial — no matter how much or how little it contributes to the U.N., has an equal vote".

For me, at least, the theme of the conflict is clear: Washington wants back its lost power. In the name of restoring the legitimacy of the nation-state, the American elite is determined to stop the U.N. from sticking its nose where it does not belong. In other words, the U.N. is based in New York, and it is in New York that all the decisions should be taken.

With the U.S. out of the U.N. and its $3.5 billion annual contribution no longer available, the Washington elite is convinced that the U.N. will simply wither away. By then, the international elite will have to move out of Plaza tower; or shall I say from New York, and move somewhere else, perhaps Geneva or Ethiopia. The building, Plaza, will become the seat of the new international organisation: the League of Democracies.

The writer is a visiting fellow at the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies, Amman.

Postmodern irony may be profound, but it is strange science

By John Horgan

NEW YORK — A while ago, at a conference in Buffalo called "Science in the Age of (Mis)information," scores of scientists railed against "anti-science," including the vile trend known as postmodernism. Hearing the denunciations at this meeting, one might guess that distinguishing truth lovers from truth defiers is child's play.

The forces of rationality sport shiny white jump suits, while the epistemological subversives skulk about in black T-shirts and berets.

If only things were that simple. Like a mutant virus, postmodernism has infected not only philosophy and the social sciences but even such alleged bastions of truth and objectivity as physics and chemistry.

Some of the most prominent scientists in the world traffic in hypotheses that are remarkably postmodern in character. I like to call this type of theorising ironic science.

The concept of irony is central to that wellspring of postmodernism, literary criticism. According to such eminent critics as Northrop Frye, no text should be viewed as literally true. The Bible, "Finnegans Wake," even Mr. Frye's own essays are all ironic in the sense that they have multiple meanings; none of which are definitive.

The job of the literary critic is thus not to pin down the true meaning of a text — an impossible task — but to invent new meanings, ones that challenge received wisdom and provoke further dialogue.

Similarly, ironic science advances hypotheses that, while often profound and provocative, should not be considered literally true.

My favourite example of ironic science is superstring theory, which for the last 15 years has represented the cutting edge of physics. Sometimes called a "theory of everything," it posits that all the matter and energy in the universe, and even space and time, stem from infinitesimal loops of ur-stuff writhing in a hyperspace of 10 (or more) dimensions.

The leading practitioner of superstring theory is Edward Witten of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. Time magazine recently named him one of the 25 most influential Americans, and with good reason. Mr. Witten's papers on superstrings have made him far and away the most cited physicist in the world.

In a now famous paper published last May in Social Text, a quarterly devoted to cultural studies, Alan Sokal, a physicist at New York University, proposed that superstring theory might help liberate science from "dependence on the concept of objective truth." Mr. Sokal later announced that the article had been a hoax intended to expose the hollowness of postmodernism.

In fact, however, superstring theory is exactly the kind of science that subverts conventional notions of truth.

"Science cannot gain access to the subjective realm. No human can be absolutely sure that any other human has an inner life. We all make this assumption because it is the reasonable thing to do."

The tiny domain that superstrings supposedly inhabit is even less accessible than the quasars haunting the edge of the visible universe. A superstring is to a proton in size as a proton is to the solar system.

To probe this realm directly would require a particle accelerator 1,000 light-years around. (The entire solar system is only one light-day around). In other words, it is highly unlikely that we will ever know whether superstring theory is true. That is what makes it ironic.

Ironic science has flourished on the macro end of physics as well. Physicists like Sidney Coleman of Harvard and Andrei Linde of Stanford have speculated that our galaxy-emblazoned cosmos is merely one of an infinite number of universes, some perhaps with similar laws of physics and even similar inhabitants. A fascinating possibility — and one that will probably never be verified.

The phenomenon of human consciousness is a seed from which myriad ironic blooms have sprung. Every year more books and conferences address the question of how mere matter can possibly give rise to subjective thought. Is a bat capable of thought, or an amoeba? What about a computer?

Of course! thunders Marvin Minsky, the artificial-intelligence maven of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. No way! retorts Roger Penrose, the British physicist and best-selling author.

The real answer is: Who knows? Science cannot gain access to the subjective realm. No human can be absolutely sure that any other human has an inner life. We all make this assumption because it is the reasonable thing to do. But reasonable people always can and will disagree on whether a machine or an amoeba thinks, because there is no way to settle the dispute empirically.

Most scientists vehemently reject the notion that they are engaged in anything smacking of postmodernism. But a few brave souls have made such an admission, albeit obliquely.

One is the Belgian chemist Ilya Prigogine, who won a Nobel Prize in 1977 for showing how certain chemical reactions "self-organise" into striking patterns. Mr. Prigogine's work is the inspiration for the trendy field of "chaos," which addresses phenomena so messy and complicated that they resist conventional scientific analysis.

Pointing out that chaotic phenomena are by definition unpredictable, Mr. Prigogine has declared that we have reached "the end of certitude." Science in the future will be increasingly probabilistic and speculative — in other words, ironic.

An even more radical view has been set forth by John Wheeler of Princeton, who coined the term "black hole" and is one of this century's most respected physicists. Mr. Wheeler spent years pondering quantum mechanics, which portrays electrons as either waves or particles, depending on how the experiment is carried out. He concluded that reality is a "participatory" phenomenon, defined in some sense by the questions we put to it.

"I do take 100 per cent seriously the idea that the world is a figment of the imagination," Mr. Wheeler once said.

His view evokes that of the late Thomas Kuhn, the philosopher whose 1962 book "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions" remains a seminal text of postmodernism. Mr. Kuhn contended that science reflects not the truth about nature but merely scientists' prevailing mind-set, which is always subject to change.

This claim simply does not withstand scrutiny. Science has established beyond reasonable doubt the existence of atoms and elements, DNA and bacteria, stars and galaxies, gravity and electromagnetism, natural selection and the expansion of the universe. These are all facts. They will be true a century or even a millennium from now.

Why, if scientists can achieve real truth, do they indulge in ironic science? Because conventional science, as far as it has come, has left many mysteries unresolved.

Are quarks and electrons made of smaller particles, which are in turn made of still smaller particles, ad infinitum? Is our universe just one of many universes? Was the evolution of conscious, intelligent beings inevitable or a fluke of nature?

Lurking behind all these questions is the biggest question of all: Why is there something rather than nothing? Unfortunately, scientists have even less hope of solving this riddle than literary critics have of deciding, once and for all, what Keats's Ode to a Nightingale" really means.

I do not mean to imply that ironic science has no value. Far from it. At its best, ironic science, like great literature or philosophy or, yes, literary criticism, induces wonder. By addressing unanswerable questions and imagining realms beyond the reach of true science, ironic science helps ensure that we remain forever awe-struck before the mystery of the universe.

But ironic science cannot give us the truth.

The writer, a senior writer at Scientific American magazine, is author of "The End of Science: Facing the Limits of Knowledge in the Twilight of the Scientific Age." This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

LETTERS

Providing comfort, of sorts

To the Editor:

ANY STUDENT of human civilisation who saw one of Bill Clinton's election rallies on TV last week would probably be more baffled than saddened. Mr. Clinton managed to whip up mass hysteria through his verbosity against Iraq. What is it that makes such an audience, presumably simple folk wanting to deal with the problems of their daily life, go berserk with viciousness?

Human avarice has always existed, but, having decimated Iraq and having total control over arguably the largest source of wealth today, energy, what is it that drives this obsession for aggression?

The United Nations, once the hope of many for an organised world, has not only moved from being a farce into the realm of embarrassing bad taste, it has also become a tool against the people it is supposed to protect. The few codes of international conduct that were painstakingly pieced together during the best part of a century were swept away in a flash.

The ruler on the other side of the Atlantic begins to dance even before he hears the tune. Probably, in order to divert attention from the increasing number of the youth of his country sleeping in shop doorways and under bridges, he thinks that whipping up aggressive emotions will make the people forget their plight! His broadcasting apparatus, once a stronghold of intellect, is now spewing low grade political propaganda round the clock. True to the tradition of his forebears, whose hands are stained with the blood of virtually every nation on earth, he keeps on ranting about democracy, but must know by now that his country will not get any crumbs of the loot, no matter how hard he tries. Avarice, it seems, has no time for "special relationships."

When the might of Russia withered, the mask fell and the true face came into vision. But what an ugly face indeed!

Some may say that the international propaganda machine, in the true fashion of Göbbels, is to blame. There may be some truth in that, but does that factor absolve the world as a whole from having strangled its conscience?

Answers to these questions, I believe, have great significance in order to understand the nature of the present Dark Age. They could, however little, "provide comfort".

Omar Mango,
Amman.

Wrong time

To the Editor:

I am a regular reader of Jordan Times and was rather disappointed and surprised to note that Jordan Times did not get it right regarding the switch from summer time to winter time.

First, the announcement should have been in the Thursday, September 19, edition and not two days after the event, on September 21.

Second, we are not three hours ahead of GMT, but only two.

Leiv K. Herheim,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Database system documents thousands of known Jordanian antiquities sites

BOOK REVIEW

Jordan Antiquities Database and Information System

Edited by Dr. Gaetano Palumbo

Department of Antiquities of Jordan and the American Center of Oriental Research

Amman, 1994, JD 20

This book captures the extravagant wealth of antiquities in Jordan, but also the tremendous challenge of trying to organise, catalogue, enjoy and protect this bountiful legacy from the past. While it is aimed primarily at scholars and other specialist users, this volume also opens up intriguing new opportunities for lay people to enjoy the antiquities of Jordan in ways that have not been possible before.

The JADIS volume looks like a telephone directory, and its first half which contains the text also reads like a telephone directory. This part is essentially a print out in small text of a computerised database listing all the documented antiquities sites in the country (a "site" being defined as "an isolated or an integrated complex of human-built features older than 50 years"). This volume, which was printed in 1994, lists 8,680 sites, but future volumes will list more sites — because dozens and sometimes hundreds of new sites are being discovered every year through archaeological surveys, and data is continuously being entered into the database of sites at the Department of Antiquities registration centre.

The JADIS volume, therefore, is the most comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date source of information about the archaeological sites of Jordan. This is where you should look first if you want to know what remains are to be found at any location in the country, which periods of ancient history are represented at any site, where it is located on the map (UTM and Palestine grid coordinates), what is its elevation, and where to find bibliographical references to previous work on the site by scholars.

The book starts with a complete listing of sites with all available information about each one's location, elevation, historical periods represented, nature of the remains, bibliographical references and other information; this is followed by an alphabetical index of all sites, and finally by an index of the sites by sector and period. The fifth and last section of the book comprises over 100 pages of maps of the different sectors of the country arranged by period, but unfortunately the maps only show the location and density of sites by a dot for each one, and do not list the names of the sites. The JADIS project aims to produce 1:25,000 scale maps of the entire country, with every known site recorded on the maps. One hopes that it might also be possible soon to produce regional maps with simple keys to the major sites (say, the top 300 sites with visible remains of interest to Jordanians and tourists).

This last section of the book is the most intriguing for me because it allows the lay reader to flip through a series of maps that show the different patterns of site locations in the same area but in different periods. So, for example, as you flip through the maps of sector 14 (the southwest corner of Jordan from just above Maan to the southern and western borders), you find dozens of sites during the stone age periods, only eight in the Bronze Age, over one-hundred during the Iron, Persian, Hellenistic and Nabataean eras, slightly fewer but more clustered settlements in the Roman-Byzantine era, a sharp decline in the number of sites in the early and middle Islamic era, and then a revival in the number of sites in the Ottoman/modern period.

The easy availability of this sort of information allows us to study the patterns of known settlements in the entire country over time, or to look at a region and reconstruct its history over a long or a brief span of time. This is one of the advantages of a data base system such as this one, in which the information about a site is entered in a manner that can be retrieved in different ways. Thus, for example, if you are planning to visit an area in Jordan and wish to know what sites are in the vicinity, you can consult the JADIS book or computer programme and get your answer. More intriguing, if you were only interested in Iron Age towers and early Islamic caravanserais, you could ask which sites in certain areas have these characteristics and the system will tell you. You can also do bibliographical searches on sites or authors.

Dr. Palumbo (who now works with the Getty Museum in California) told the Jordan Times in a recent interview here that the primary aim of the JADIS system was "to organise existing information about the antiquities sites of Jordan in a format which could allow the output of site lists based on map grid coordinates, and thus could answer the question 'are there any sites in this area?', which would be of tremendous benefit to planners and government authorities interested in protecting antiquities while promoting development."

This effort, whose main contributors were the Department of Antiquities, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR), and the Community Development Group, has sought to develop a computerised inventory of sites that could be used by the Department of Antiquities to protect sites that may be endangered by construction projects or other consequences of population growth and economic development. In some cases in recent years, it was discovered, department staff were referring to old survey reports (in some cases half a century old) to see if any sites existed in areas designated for the construction of a road or other public project.

"Now that the system has been established and is being maintained by Department of Antiquities staff without routine international assistance, the question arises as to how the available information will be used by government agencies to protect known antiquities. One of the things that the JADIS project has highlighted is the wealth of sites in the country. Dr Palumbo estimates that these 8,680 sites represent only a fraction of the antiquities of Jordan — for 75 per cent of these sites are located in just 15 per cent of the country, and the vast majority of Jordanian territory has not been surveyed archaeologically. In areas where intensive surveys have been done, the concentration of sites is up to six per square kilometre; the concentration of presently known sites in Jordan is one site per every eleven square kilometres. He estimates that, based on the results of intensive surveys, further intensive surveying will identify anywhere between 100,000 and 500,000 new sites throughout the country.

An important point to keep in mind is that these documented sites do not accurately reflect the ancient settlement patterns and history of the land of Jordan; they only reflect our knowledge of where surveying and excavation work has been done. And the areas where work has been done are biased towards agricultural and urban regions, the Iron Age and Classical periods, and prehistory and areas that reflect the personal interests of scholars.

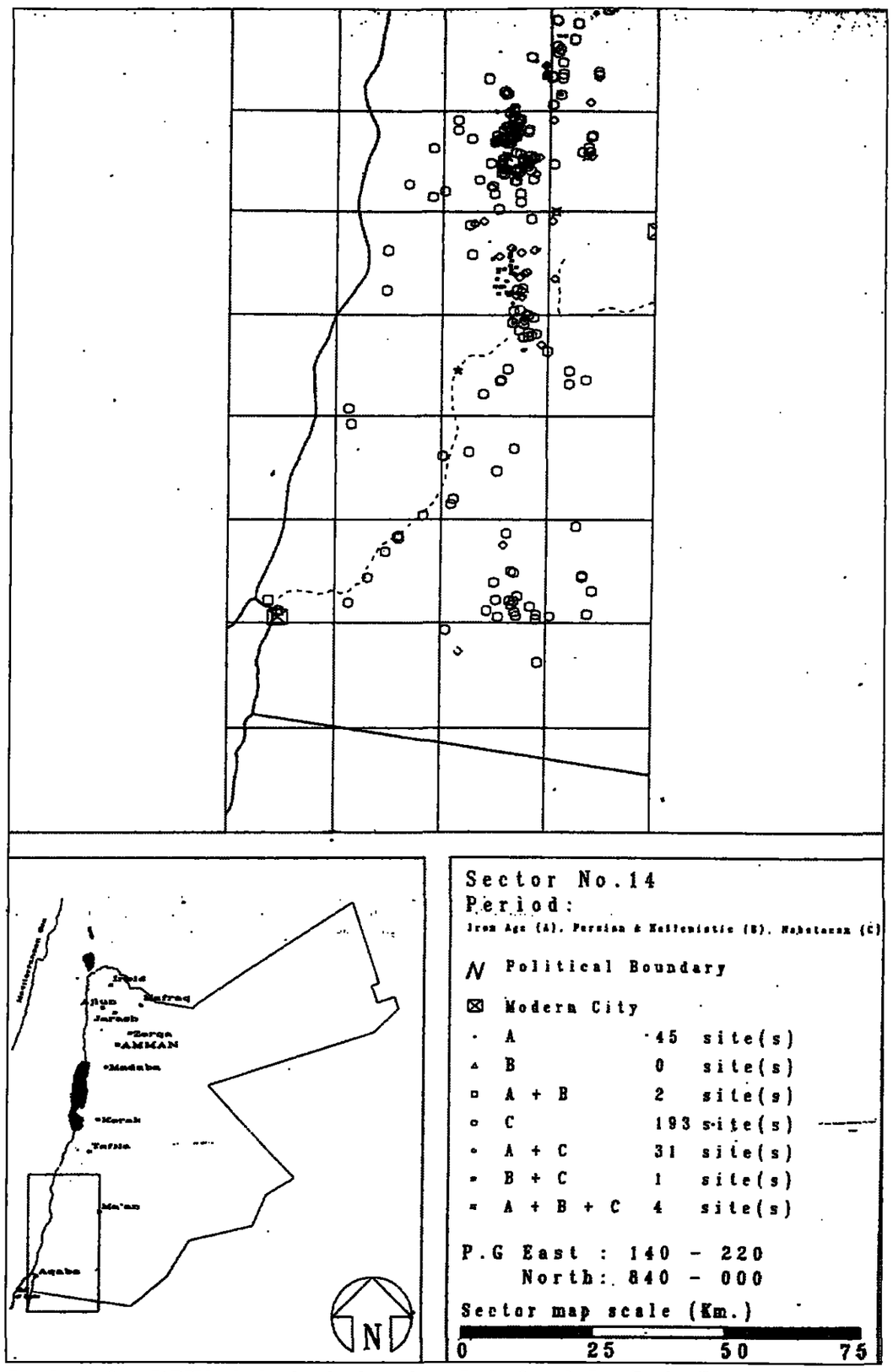
In such circumstances, Dr Palumbo suggests, Jordan might consider carrying out a survey of the entire country that would help determine comprehensively the distribution and nature of ancient sites, which would then allow us to determine priorities for what to preserve and protect.

"We know from the experiences of other countries that we cannot protect every ancient site, but we must make an attempt to document every site and evaluate it before a decision is made about whether a threatened site should be protected or not," he said.

This effort has provided a powerful tool that can be used by the relevant national and local authorities to protect Jordan's antiquities in the face of the extensive construction work and looting and sale of antiquities that define our country today. It remains to be seen if the concerned public, private and non-governmental organisation sectors can build on the JADIS foundation to devise a system that affords our antiquities greater and more effective protection.

The JADIS volume will be continuously updated as new data is entered into the system, which means that its usefulness should only increase with time. It is available from the Department of Antiquities or ACOR, both of whom have combined yet again to produce work that is both impressive for its scholarly quality and important for its developmental and conservational relevance.

Rami G. Khouri



Sample map from JADIS book, showing sites in southwest Jordan from the Iron, Persian, Hellenistic and Nabatean periods

Palestinian shot

(Continued from page 1)

to say a single word," Mr. Peres said.

But he did say that Israel was without a "politics of peace...and I can only hope that the absence of these politics does not help bring about another war."

The absence of a politics of peace, anything is possible. Also terrorism is not a minor thing. Before his election, the right-wing Netanyahu vowed never to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat if he became prime minister. Under U.S. pressure, he met Mr. Arafat on Sept. 4.

Mr. Peres noted that some aspects of the peace process were going forward. Talks on implementing peace deals are due to resume next week.

"In part they are blocked, but in part they are going forward because, notwithstanding everything, their power is great," he said.

"The PLO and Arafat were recognised, the Palestinian administration is established in Gaza and the West Bank, there were important economic conferences at Casablanca and Amman and there was an anti-terrorism conference at Sharm Al Sheikh," he said. "This has created a strong and varied front. These are immovable milestones for peace."

Mr. Peres, who announced last week that he would not run for prime minister in Israel's next scheduled elections in the year 2000, said he still mourned Labour Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated by a right-wing Jew last November.

Lebanon strengthens defences

(Continued from page 1)

estimated 35,000 troops in Lebanon redeployed in recent weeks near the Syrian border after perceived threats of an Israeli attack. Some moved within striking distance of a key Israeli position on the Golan Heights, causing war jitters in Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu described the move as an attempt by Syria to pressure Israel into unilateral concessions on the strategic Golan, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Syria's Information Minister Mohammad Salman was quoted on Sunday as saying "the measures taken regarding the Syrian troops in Lebanon are not distanced from the increasing Israeli threats which we all heard in the recent period."

Iraq says army ready

(Continued from page 1)

rejection of American actions," he said, referring to Turkey and France.

U.S. Defence Secretary "William Perry failed to garner support in the Arab World, with the exception of Kuwait," he said.

He welcomed France's "positive" stand in refusing to go along with the United States and Britain when they extended the southern no-fly zone.

Gen. Ahmad also said Iraqi troops entered Erbil only for several hours in a precisely executed move to help their Kurdistan Democratic Party allies drive out the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

He spoke of the "coordination between the (elite) Republican Guard Forces and other armed forces," adding that Iraqi troops suffered "only minimal losses during the operation."

"The army's operations in Erbil destroyed the plans of enemies who dreamed of carving up Iraq," the defence minister said.

Ramadan sees positive signs

An international music and dance festival taking place in the ancient city of Babylon is a sign that six years of U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq are nearing an end, a senior official said Monday.

The participation of 40 troupes from around the world in the festival "is one of the many signs announcing that the embargo imposed on Iraq is dying," Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan told the official press."The Babylon festival takes place this year as Iraqis joyously celebrate their victories and the removal of agents and foreigners from the country's north," Mr. Ramadan said.

Speaking to around 5,000 people in a Babylon amphitheater which Alexander the great built in the fourth century BC, Mr. Ramadan thanked those "who came thousands of kilometres" to attend the festival despite the "unjust" embargo.

He said they were expressing "their solidarity with the just cause of the Iraqi people."

Iraq began holding the festival in 1987 in Babylon, 60 kilometres south of the Iraqi capital, although it was not held immediately before and after the Gulf war in 1990 and 1991.

Last U.S. soldiers deploy

(Continued from page 1)

region said Sunday that Iraq has launched no missiles at allied warplanes since President Saddam announced on Sept. 13 that his air defences would hold their fire.

The new troops from the U.S. army's First Cavalry Division are joining 1,200 troops who have been training since August in the emirate which Iraq occupied in 1990-91.

"They're now already out on the training range," Col. Nickerson said, adding that the new arrivals were checking their equipment in desert camps before joining live-fire exercises.

With another several hundred support staff looking after U.S. military equipment at Camp Doha, there are now between 4,500 and 5,000 U.S. soldiers in Kuwait, Col. Nickerson said.

The First Cavalry Division now numbers 4,200 troops, enough for a heavy brigade which can train with the hundreds of tanks and other armoured vehicles stockpiled at Camp Doha under an agreement with Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf war.

Col. Nickerson said troops in the desert on Monday were preparing M2/M3 Bradley fighting vehicles and M109A6 Paladin Howitzer self-propelled artillery for live-fire exercises to take place on Tuesday.

The practice on Tuesday will involve troops who have trained at the Udairi range near the Iraqi border since August, while the reinforcements check their equipment before joining in manoeuvres.

A Kuwaiti envoy left Monday for Iran on the first leg of a Middle East tour to explain why his country welcomed U.S. troops during a confrontation with Iraq.

Transportation Minister Jassem Al Aoun told the official KUNA news agency he was carrying a message from the emir, Sheikh JaberAl Ahmad Al Sabah, about measures taken to ensure Kuwait's "security against recent Iraqi threats."

He said he was certain "Arab and Islamic countries would understand Kuwait's stand, and they would therefore support its easures to preserve security in the region and deter Iraq which is trying to threaten Kuwait."

Crown Prince voices concern

(Continued from page 1)

is straining to continue to offer these services as well as to improve their level, the country is still struggling with its economic reforms and has taken as you all know the necessary steps towards balancing its budget. If there are attempts to gradually liquidate UNRWA we in Jordan have rejected this notion."

"In this meeting we are reaffirming our commitment to the Palestinian refugees but we at the same time are expressing our feelings of frustration because instead of drawing nearer to the solution of the problem we are discussing the agency's financial crisis which is affecting the lives of millions of Palestinians," stressed Prince Hassan.

He said: "I would like to express my disappointment with regard to the deteriorating situation in the refugee camps and to point out that our earlier warnings have not been heeded with result that the refugees and UNRWA face a grim future."

He said Israel should recognise not only the existence of the refugees but their right to return.

If the Oslo accord, he said, is not implemented the Palestinians would face further negative consequences.

"Stability in this region requires cooperation on the part of all parties and requires backing for UNRWA and the countries hosting the refugees so that the region can enjoy stability," he said. Backing for the agnecy should fall within the framework of an overall plan for the future of the region and its peoples, he said.

Other speakers at the meeting included the agency's commissiner general Peter Hansen, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Thweib, and Palestinian delegate Assad Abdul Rahman.

Robert Hopkins, director of UNRWA's operations, announced that the American delegation had pledged an additional $5 million to the agency's budget which currently suffers from a $45 million deficit in its 1996 budget. This will be in addition to the U.S. annual donation of $70 million.

IMF: World capital markets calmer in 1996 in favourable world economy

WASHINGTON (AFP) — world financial markets have remained stable this year under generally favourable macroeconomic conditions, the International Mondetary Fund (IMF) said in a report on international capital movement.

It found that systemic shocks, such as those that rattled the European exchange rate mechanism in 1992 and Mexico in 1994-1995, as well as crises in such institutions as Barings, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, Daiwa and Sumitomo, "appear to have been a by-product of the transformati n and restructuring of international finance."

"The systemic risk is very much under control," said David Folkerts-Landau, the IMF's deputy director of research." Market participants have learned to manage financial risks."

As an indication of calmer market activity the report cited a pickup in capital flow toward developing and transition economies.

In 1995 such transfers reached a record $228 billion, of which $194 billion was for developing countries and $34 billion for transitional markets.

Asia attracted the lion's share of the capital, $104 billion. But flows to Latin America, where investors had been reluctant to tread in the aftermath of the Mexican peso crisis, came to $49 billion , a level just above that of 1994.

"The regional pattern and composition of flows suggest that investors have become more sensitive to economic fundamentals in host countries — the size of current account deficits in relation to foreign exchange reserves, external debt and domestic saving, growth potential and the soundness of the banking system," according to the IMF.

The volume of direct investment in 1995 surpassed by far investment via portfolios, notably in Asia, where the respective totals were $52.4 billion and $18.5 billion.

In Latin America, foreign direct investment amounted to $17.1 billion last year against $10 billion via portfolio.

But the IMF stressed that it was still necessary "to strengthen the international financial system by extending the successful supervisory and regulatory practices developed under existing group of 10 multilateral arrangements," a reference to a deal struck in 1988 among the major Western powers to harmonise surveillance procedures.

The report also noted there was still room for improvement in the performance of the banking systems in the Group of Seven industrialised nations.

"Even with a moderate economic recovery in Japan," according to the IMF, "it would take a some time to completely resolve Japanese banks' nonperforming loan problems."

But it added that the international banking community "is relatively unconcerned about the possibility of a market disruption due to the failure of a major Japanese bank."

In France, it said, banks remained "under pressure from weak loan growth and the decline in property markets."

The banking systems of Mexico, Venezuela and India were described as fragile.

On exchange markets, dealers are expecting a strengthening in the Japanese yen, according to the IMF.

In western Europe deficit reduction efforts in several countries — notably Italy and Sweden — appear to have reduced tensions on currency exchanges despite "continued uncertainty" about the future of a single currency.

The report added that "the chief concern in various financial centres is that the U.S. (stock) market might be poised for sharp and sustained correction that could spread to other markets."

Ailing state sector is greatest problem for China

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng has said the nation's debt-crippled state sector was the most significant problem facing the government in the first half of the year.

"Money-losing enterprises continued to lose money and the numbers halting production kept increasing," Mr. Li told the 10th plenary session of China's State Council, according to a Xinhua dispatch on Wednesday.

"The total profit in industrial enterprises went down and some state-owned enterprises had greater difficulties in both production and management," he warned.

The State Statistics Bureau revealed Tuesday that profits from state enterprises in the first seven months of the year dropped by 36.1 per cent compared to the same 1995.

It also warned that low economic efficiency of state enterprises was a critical issue.

Mr. Li urged greater efforts to implement management reforms in state enterprises and he also warned that China must pay greater attention to exports.

After a massive $16.69 billion trade surplus in 1995, China managed only a $2 billion surplus by the end of July, largely due to a cut in import taxes and the poor performance of the state sector.

However, Mr. Li made an overall positive assessment of the government's work in the first half of the year.

"In all, China has made a good start for its ninth five-year-plan (1996-2000)," he said.

Meanwhile, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Bangguo has called for the elimination of state firms that have "lost their vitality."

Mr. Wu, who is responsible for reform of the state sector, delivered his ultimatum at a national economic meeting in Tianjin, a major port southwest of Beijing, newspapers said.

"The reform of China's state enterprises has entered into a crucial phase and the drop in enterprise economic efficiency has become a major problem in China's current economic system," he was quoted as saying.

However, Mr. Wu stressed many state firms that lost money in the first four months of the year recovered in May.

"The state sector, on the whole, has made up deficits and increased surpluses, but the struggling economic situation of enterprises is still serious," he said.

There are many reasons for the current difficulties, Mr. Wu said, "however, the problems of enterprises themselves cannot be overlooked," as many had not yet adapted to developments in China's rapidly growing economy.

"With the stagnant operating mechanism that is currently in place, irrational structures and poor technology and management, they had trouble adapting to the transition from the planned economy to a market economy, from the seller's market to the buyer's market, and to fierce market competition in general," he said.

"Those that have lost their vitality should be eliminated," Mr. Wu stressed.

Mr. Wu said 60 per cent of state revenue came from the public sector, which employs about 70 per cent of China's workers.

Higher oil price, customs boost UAE 1995 income

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An improvement in oil prices and hikes in customs and services fees fetched the United Arab Emirates (UAE) more than $1 billion in additional revenue in 1995, an official report has said.

Bankers said they expected the income to increase further in 1996 as crude prices exceeded the 1995 level and more revenue will likely be generated from customs tariffs on imports and other sources.

Public revenues grew by around five billion dirhams ($1.36 billion) to 43.7 billion dirhams ($11.9 billion) in 1995, the central bank said.

Oil earnings accounted for the bulk of the income, rising by 11.2 per cent to around 33.2 billion dirhams ($9.04 billion) in 1995 from 29.9 billion ($8.14 billion) in 1994, the bank said in a study.

The increase was caused by an improvement in oil prices to $16.64 from $15.5, the study said.

The UAE produces around 2.16 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil under an OPEC-assigned quota.

Like other Gulf states, the UAE has sought to lessen reliance on volatile oil export earnings through the development of other sectors, raising fees on government services and introduction of new services fees.

A breakdown showed the Gulf country's income from such fees increased to around nine billion dirhams ($2.45 billion) in 1995 from 8.1 billion dirhams ($2.2 billion) in 1994.

Customs earnings also surged to 1.3 billion dirhams ($354 million) from 600 million dirhams ($81.7 million) because of a 66 per cent increase on tobacco imports and quadrupling of tariffs on other imports.

From one per cent, the customs tariff on most imports was hiked to four per cent last year.

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Amber
Noble coral
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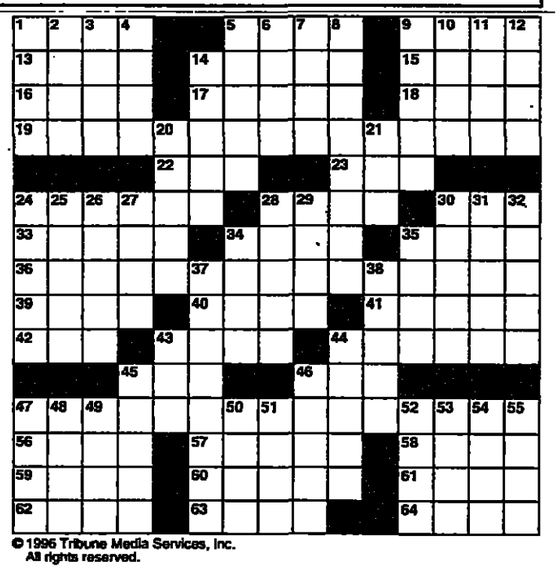
THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



ACROSS
1 Unrelenting
5 Bucket
9 —'-shanter
13 Military assistant
14 Type of feather
15 Roman poet
16 Ancient Hebrew measure
17 Supply additional weapons
18 Meter start
19 TV series, once
22 — green
23 Indefinite amount
24 Torment
28 Vile
30 Alphabet run
33 Texas shrine
34 Exclusive group
35 Cornelia — Skinner
36 Doris Day recording
39 Now and —
40 Flower
41 In no way
42 — ammoniac
43 Spectral
44 Underground workers
45 Abstract artist
46 Talk fondly
47 Desert
56 A Gardner
57 Deng, e.g.
58 Rake
59 Thickening agent
60 Approaches
61 — boy!
62 Student's language aid
63 Take care of
64 Look searchingly

DOWN
1 Reading was one
2 Frost
3 Brainchild
4 Griffin of TV
5 Religious statue
6 Med. course
7 Japanese receptacle
8 Give a thrashing to
9 Winery grape
10 Tel —
11 Racing distance
12 Redolence
14 Opens with a lever
20 — Downs
21 Chemical suffix
24 Applies the brakes
25 Greeting from Don Ho
26 "Bolero" composer
27 Last word
28 Muscular
29 Good friend
30 Funny Martin
31 Stopwatch user
32 Addicts
34 Coconut fiber
35 Kiln
37 Circus attraction
38 Negative particle
43 Before
44 Sounds of distress
45 Brundage or Brooks
46 Swiss —
47 Spring
48 Therefore
49 Author Milne
50 Words of understanding
51 — Carlo Menotti
52 Party pooper
53 Show excessive fondness
54 Trick
55 Twelvemonth

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P	A	S	T		M	A	M	A		C	A	P	E	T
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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"I got the cellular phone so you could reach me anywhere—but stop calling me in the bathroom!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OONES
VAGRE
PAUDIN
FARINU

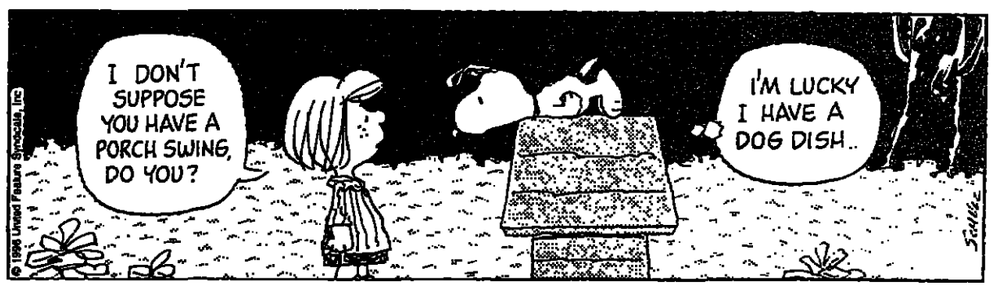
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here : THE

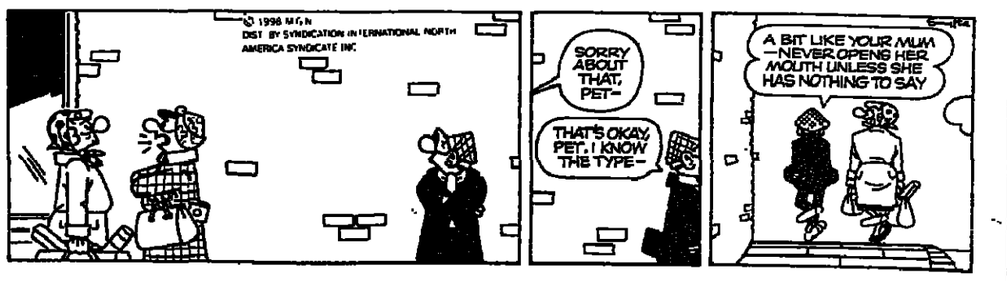
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OUNCE LOONY TOWARD FORAGE
Answer: His gift made him this — AN ORGAN DONOR

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get an early start today on practical and organise a fine plan of action which you have devised with the assistance o a fellow associate. Your mate is cooperative so make advantage of his or her input for your success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) A fellow associate can be very agreeable today, so labour out policy matters wisely and thereby you can devise a new method of operation. Plan a campaign for public affairs later this evening and you can be helpful to those less fortunate.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't make unnecessary changes today after a day of accomplishment and you can thereby gain the respect and acknowledgement of those in authority. Be more concerned later this evening with your social life and have fun.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Rising early today can win the day for you in such a fashion that you will achieve recognition from a bigwig. Gain the cooperation later this evening of good friends to get what you want in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get busy today and improve the situation at home which is important to your psychological well being. Enjoy your favourite hobbies during the evening and then you will be able to relax for difficulties in the days ahead.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Keep the appointments you have made today so that you can progress in your career activities without too much difficulty. Handle other activities later this evening you have planned and study the results for their success.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have good and practical ideas today on how to improve any property you may have. Get advice from experts later this who have devised some plan of operation for your success and are willing to let you in on the secret.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Closet yourself with a good adviser today and plan how to gain your cherished aims which mean so much to you. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with close friends and have a good time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are very practical minded today and you should confer with influential people, so listen to the advice which is being presented. Later this evening will allow you to have fun with your mate and show him or her much affection.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A dynamic friend has a fine suggestion today how to gain some cherished wish, so listen carefully to what is said. This evening will be quite successful if you are willing to make the effort to proceed with a new method of operation.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You get an early start today so you can accomplish whatever you have to with much efficiency and thereby you can be successful. Get business interests improved later this evening and you can get recognised in the days ahead.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get into a new outlet today which can bring you greater success in the days ahead. Gain the favour later this evening of newcomers who can be helpful in your career activities and make those in authority take notice.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

Egypt to build 'riviera' without Jordan and Israel

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AFP) — Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamduh Al Beltagui said Sunday that Egypt planned to create a tourist riviera on its Gulf of Aqaba coast, without collaborating with Jordan and Israel.

"There won't be a joint riviera with Jordan and Israel. The Egyptian Riviera will be built by Egyptians," Mr. Beltagui said during a news conference in this Mediterranean city.

"During a visit to Jordan and Israel in September 1994, I was informed by the two parties that the U.S. company that drew up the plan for the riviera on the Gulf of Aqaba had submitted it only to the Jordanians and Israelis without contacting Egypt," the minister said.

"Now, they (the Jordanians and Israelis) are building their own establishments for this project and we are doing the same on our side," he said.

After the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Jordanian peace accords were signed in 1993 and 1994, Mr. Beltagui announced that Egypt planned to create a tourist riviera in the Sinai along the Gulf of Aqaba coast, in cooperation with Jordan and Israel.

He said then that the project's initial cost would be five billion Egyptian pounds ($1.3 billion) and that it would extend for 9.5 kilometres along the coast. The project would include a hotel complex with 12,000 rooms and sports and leisure centres.

Mr. Beltagui said, meanwhile, that at the international conference on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa, scheduled for Nov. 12 to 14 in Cairo, "Egypt will put forward three projects ... for tourism development with a view toward attracting the necessary capital to carry them out."

The projects would be at "Ras Al Hikma and at Rosetta on the Egyptian Mediterranean coast and at Wadi Al Gimal on the Red Sea," 1,000 kilometres southeast of Cairo.

Mr. Beltagui said he was pleased with the increase in tourireceipts wo years. Egypt has been hit by a wave of muslim militant violence since March 1992. Twelve Western tourists were killed in attacks by the militants.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 23/09/1996

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
252.000	205.000	ARAB BANK	13.3	1.43	8	180	44060	244.00	244.00	-
3.800	3.000	BANK OF JORDAN	10.9	0.00	3	1287	3759	3.00	3.01	.01+
1.210	.880	MID.EAST INV.BK.	78.2	0.00	151	170700	201201	1.13	1.19	.06+
3.040	2.800	JOR.KUWAIT BANK	19.6	0.00	6	1494	4032	2.70	2.70	-
1.240	.890	JOR.GULF BANK	5.8	7.22	14	8500	8245	.96	.97	.01+
4.180	3.300	JOR.ISLAMIC BANK	18.1	0.00	3	450	1694	3.76	3.76	-
3.820	3.000	JOR.INV.FIN.BANK	20.5	0.00	7	2160	8135	3.70	3.80	.10+
3.410	2.180	BEIT.AL-MAL (HOLDING)	1.4	6.82	4	1266	2781	2.22	2.20	.02-
1.095	.200	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	2	5000	1900	.36	.38	.02+
1.640	1.000	PHILADEL.INV.BK.	9	0.00	19	8699	7907	1.43	1.44	.01+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 180.77 %CHG: +0.16			218	196498	283822			
2.910	2.150	JOR FRENCH INSUR.	6.2	9.09	3	910	2050	2.19	2.20	.01-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 121.16 %CHG: +0.05			3	910	2050			
1.900	1.450	JOR.HYDROELECTRIC PWR.	11.4	7.32	16	10768	17660	1.64	1.64	-
9.250	8.400	JOR.HOTEL TOURISM	19.4	1.83	2	36253	326128	8.75	9.00	.25+
1.560	1.140	IRBID ELECTRICITY	9.7	6.76	1	5000	7400	1.43	1.48	.05+
2.800	2.090	SHIPPING LINES	10.6	7.94	12	6350	16505	2.52	2.52	-
2.120	1.080	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	30	11300	14119	1.24	1.27	.03+
1.260	.590	JORDAN INTL.TRAD.	13.9	0.00	6	2850	2086	.66	.66	-
2.430	1.720	MID. EAST HOTELS	75.0	0.00	1	250	435	1.75	1.74	.01-
3.860	1.090	ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC.	13.8	5.71	32	12582	43878	3.44	3.50	.06+
1.360	.960	BANKS EDUCATION	9	0.00	18	14700	16863	1.12	1.17	.05+
2.430	1.700	DRIVERS CO.	9.7	5.43	5	700	1288	1.84	1.84	-
1.200	.820	UNION LAND DEV.	E	0.00	8	5850	5522	.95	.94	.01-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 115.27 %CHG: +0.52			147	106800	451742			
3.770	3.060	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.2	2.99	18	5277	17646	3.37	3.35	.03-
5.960	4.790	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.5	3.66	3	300	1638	5.50	5.46	.04-
10.650	8.720	JOR. PETROL.REFINERY	9.4	8.58	16	346	7873	9.20	9.32	.04+
1.590	1.150	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	64.8	0.00	12	12300	17765	1.42	1.46	.04+
3.750	1.650	INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR.	29.2	0.00	2	112	243	2.24	2.17	.07-
8.150	6.420	JOR.WORSTED MILLS	9.1	3.52	4	583	4133	7.10	7.10	-
4.970	3.100	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	19.8	5.56	12	2450	8793	3.55	3.60	.05+
2.600	2.050	JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.98	1	1000	2150	2.15	2.15	-
8.000	4.250	TAR ALDANA DV.INV.	13.4	4.10	13	10150	49233	4.85	4.88	.03+
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM.IND.	8.8	8.43	2	900	2856	3.60	3.56	.04-
.910	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	174	774150	712844	.90	.94	.04+
1.500	1.060	ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD.	8.5	8.28	2	750	938	1.25	1.25	-
1.120	.650	NATIONAL INDS.	9.9	8.96	18	10600	7026	.66	.67	.01+
1.940	1.040	INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM.	9	0.00	12	4750	5493	1.16	1.18	.02+
1.150	.830	JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS.	E	0.00	5	4400	4038	.90	.92	.02+
[illegible]	2.280	UNIV.CHEM.INDS.	78.3	0.00	26	5975	28912	2.82	2.96	.14+
1.310	.830	JOR. SULPHO-CHEM	9	0.00	3	2000	1700	.87	.85	.02-
2.140	1.080	ARAB PHARM.CHEM.	26.6	0.00	12	4350	6208	1.42	1.42	-
3.280	1.685	UNIV. MODN.INDS.	5.2	11.76	12	3050	5213	1.71	1.70	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	JOR.INDS.RESOURCES	18.0	0.00	27	6801	9727	1.44	1.43	-
[illegible]	.95	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	26.6	0.00	2	750	738	.99	.98	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	INTL. TOBACCO	27.1	0.00	21	17764	20417	1.15	1.15	-
[illegible]	.130	UNION CH. & VEG.	28.1	0.00	1	100	399	1.14	1.14	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS		INDEX: 112.37 %CHG: -0.09			396	873608	910041			
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 149.58 %CHG: -0.08			749	1177956	1653695			

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 23/09/1996

.70	.510	CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE	22.5	0.00	2	969	542	.56	.56	-
.800	.620	JOR.TRADE FAC.	17.1	0.00	6	1600	1664	.64	.64	-
.950	.440	NATL.COMMER.CENTERS	E	0.00	3	2300	1098	.56	.55	.01-
.960	.700	UNION INV. 50%	74.6	0.00	35	77195	61354	.77	.78	.01+
1.150	.510	ARAB FIN.INVEST.	9	0.00	12	12000	6600	.55	.55	.01-
1.390	.760	UNIVL. METALS	E	0.00	4	528	391	.74	.74	-
.930	.610	ARAB FOOD & MED.	K	0.00	3	530	370	.70	.70	-
1.760	1.370	NATL. CHLORINE	K	0.00	1	6850	9934	1.46	1.46	-
.750	.510	ARAB INTL.INV.TRD.	9	0.00	1	250	133	.53	.53	.02-
1.100	.520	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	33	64195	34115	.60	.63	.03+
N 1.100	.550	NATL.MULT.HOUS.MANCO	E	0.00	14	7062	4086	.58	.58	-
.900	.430	NATZAR DIES & MOULDS	E	0.00	1	100	51	.49	.51	.02+
1.000	.770	JORDAN STEEL	N	0.00	21	16437	14933	.80	.81	.01+
.840	.430	ARAB ELECT.INDS.	P	0.00	18	10850	5947	.54	.55	.02+
.890	.620	MIDEAST PHARM. 75%	K	0.00	11	10946	4914	.67	.70	.03+
.850	.440	INDS. REN.	33.3	0.00	14	11700	6318	.55	.54	.01-
1.460	.770	INDS. CERAMIC	E	0.00	3	1500	838	.82	.84	.02+
.925	.630	PEARL SEN. P. CONV.	E	0.00	3	490	308	.63	.63	-
.900	.610	NATL. POULTRY	E	0.00	3	6252	3752	.61	.61	-
N 1.500	.530	MID.EAST COMPLEX	9.9	0.00	46	125585	105774	.82	.84	.02+
GRAND TOTAL					235	349361	223118			

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates — Prices as at 23/09/96 18:49

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.5125	0.6426	1.2345	109.85	1.3662	1522.30	1.6948	5.1210
DE Mark	0.6612	-	0.4244	0.8162	72.64	0.9029	1006.28	1.1210	3.3863
GB Sterling	1.5562	1.5562	-	1.9203	171.05	2.1261	2369.92	2.6385	7.9724
CH Franc	0.8100	122.44	0.5199	-	88.97	1.1059	1232.83	137.30	4.1481
JP Yen	0.0091	1.3763	0.5843	1.1233	-	1.2430	13.85	154.21	4.6603
CA Dollar	0.7320	1.1035	0.4696	0.9052	1.24	-	1115.32	1.2388	3.7661
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9929	0.4216	0.0810	1387.54	0.8969	-	11.13	3.3622
NL Guilder	0.5900	89.15	0.3787	72.82	64.76	0.8056	897.39	-	3.0202
FR Franc	0.1953	0.2953	0.1254	0.0986	21.43	0.2667	33.08	33.0800	-

Energy

Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	22.75	22.80
W.Texas	23.30	23.55
Bony	22.75	22.80
Dubai	19.90	19.69
UL Gas	200.00	199.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4034	0.17134	0.32939	29.304
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41195	0.17496	0.33634	29.9231
KW Dinar	3.3367	5.04796	2.14408	4.12201	366.703
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.01284	1.70445	3.27654	291.545
CY Pound	2.1502	3.2513	1.3804	2.6537	236.134

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	381.2	381.7
Silver (oz's)	4.89	4.91
Platinum (oz's)	386.5	387.5
AL (3 Months)	#N/A DR	N/A DRF
CU (3 Months)	#N/A DR	N/A DRF
Zinc (3 Months)	#N/A DR	N/A DRF
Lead (3 Months)	#N/A DR	N/A DRF
NI (3 Months)	#N/A DR	N/A DRF

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period C'ncy	-1- Month	-3- Months	-6- Months	-9- Months	-1- Year
USD	5.53	5.56	5.62	5.85	6.06
GBP	5.62	5.69	5.62	5.81	5.93
JPY	0.32	0.41	0.38	0.48	0.65
DEM	2.88	2.88	2.94	3.00	3.06
FRF	3.46	3.48	3.58	3.65	3.73
CHF	1.31	1.50	1.50	1.62	1.75
ITL	8.24	8.20	8.10	8.03	7.94

Main Equity Indicies

Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls
NewYork	DOW JONES	5851.84	-36.62	-0.62	5887.72	5835.19	5888.46
Newyork	S&P 500	682.26	-4.76	-0.69	687.03	681.01	687.02
London	FT-SE 100	3919.7	-44.4	-1.12	3952.3	3914.9	3964.1
Tokyo	NIKKIE 225	21112.24	-210.61	-0.99	21310.1	21112.2	21322.9
Paris	CAC 40	2067.09	-12.37	-0.59	2079.22	2063.27	2079.46
Frankfurt	DAX	2627.04	-19.06	-0.72	2633.29	2625.62	2646.1

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	110	Spot
Cocoa ($/ton)	1417	Spot
Sugar ($/ton)	335	Spot
Wheat ($/ton)	152	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	24.05	Spot
Tea (¢p/kg)	120	Spot
Barley ($/bsh)	2.84	Spot
Rice ($/ton)	465	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.0997	1.1052
DE Mark	0.4662	0.4685
CH Franc	0.5706	0.5735
FR Franc	0.1378	0.1385
JP Yen	0.6435	0.6467
NL Guilder	0.4158	0.4179
IT Lira	0.4637	0.466

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Israel opens door for Jordan produce exports

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) Monday announced that the Israeli government agreed to import several kinds of fresh Jordanian fruits and vegetables from now until the end of December 1996.

According to AMO sources, the Jordanian exports to Israel will be expemted from customs in implementation of the agreements signed between the two countries.

The AMC called on Jordanian farmers to enter the Israeli market and export agricultural products of international standards.

The sources added that AMC's board of directors agreed to import mango, avocado, and kiwi from Israel as of Oct. 1, until the end of the year but that the Jordanian importers of such Israeli commodities should in turn export Jordanian agricultural products to the Israeli market.

The sources indicated that the types and quantities permitted to enter the Israeli market during the mentioned period are: 700 tonnes of tomato, 600 tonnes of cucumber, 500 tonnes of hot pepper, 200 tonnes of lettuce, 500 tonnes of eggplants(aubergin), 500 tonnes of squash, 250 tonnes of beans, 2,000 tonnes of apples, 200 tonnes of grapes, 500 tonnes of lemon, 1,200 tonnes of mandaline, 1,500 tonnes of water melon, and 500 tonnes of sweet melon.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian society of exporters and producers of vegetables and fruits drew up a plan for the coming years.

DAILY BUSINESS BEAT

A review of news from the Arabic press

AFM to be in private hands before 1999

** COMMENTING ON the statement by Abdullah Ensour, the minister of higher education and the chairman of the Development Council, on transferring the stock exchange to the private sector, the president of the brokers' society described the idea as a qualitative step and an important requirement to activate the mechanism of operations at the Amman Financial Market (AFM). He said the transfer would encourage foreign investors to enter the stock exchange and would, in turn, cover certain aspects that were not mentioned in the present AFM law. "Consequently, the move would provide another step to the safe investment climate in Jordan," added Mohammad Bilbeisi the chief of the brokers' society.

Under the new draft law for the securities, the bourse will become owned by the private sector with its members comprising non-banking financial services companies. The bourse, which may be known as the Stock Exchange of Jordan under the new law instead of the Amman Financial Market, will have its own regulations and special procedures to facilitate trading, Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out. He noted that the new law aims at separating between the bourse and the government body which, under an independent board of directors will oversee the capital market and have a regulatory and supervisory board.

Asked about the role of the brokers' society, Mr. Bilbeisi explained that there will not be a society in the present understanding but a board to manage the bourse. The board will be elected from the bourse members who represent non-banking financial services companies. The membership in the bourse can be acquired after obtaining the necessary licences from the government body which will be overseeing the capital market, he clarified.

Other changes that the new law will usher, according to Mr. Bilbeisi, will be the cancellation of large parts of the companies law relating to the procedures of trading securities and the creation of a "centre for placements and transfers" that will be associated with the private sector. Furthermore, a specialised institute in securities will be established, he said.

Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out that the new law will add new advanced instruments for investments at the bourse and organise the operations for margin and future payments which would provide wider dynamism for mutual fund investments.

The government is expected to approve the new law before the end of this year and Mr. Bilbeisi sees the whole new system in place in less than two years (Al Aswaq).

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Malaysia may host 1999 Formula 1 race

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia could host a leg of the Formula One motor racing championship in 1999 after getting the green light from race organisers Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA), the New Straits Times reported on Monday.

In a Lisbon datelined report, the daily quoted FOCA chief Bernie Ecclestone as saying: "We will be in Malaysia in 1999."

Ecclestone briefed Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on his visit to the Estoril race track on Saturday and Sunday, to tour the facilities and watch the Portuguese leg of the Grand Prix, the daily reported.

Mahathir, on an official visit to Portugal, also visited Estoril to push Malaysia's bid to host a leg of the championship.

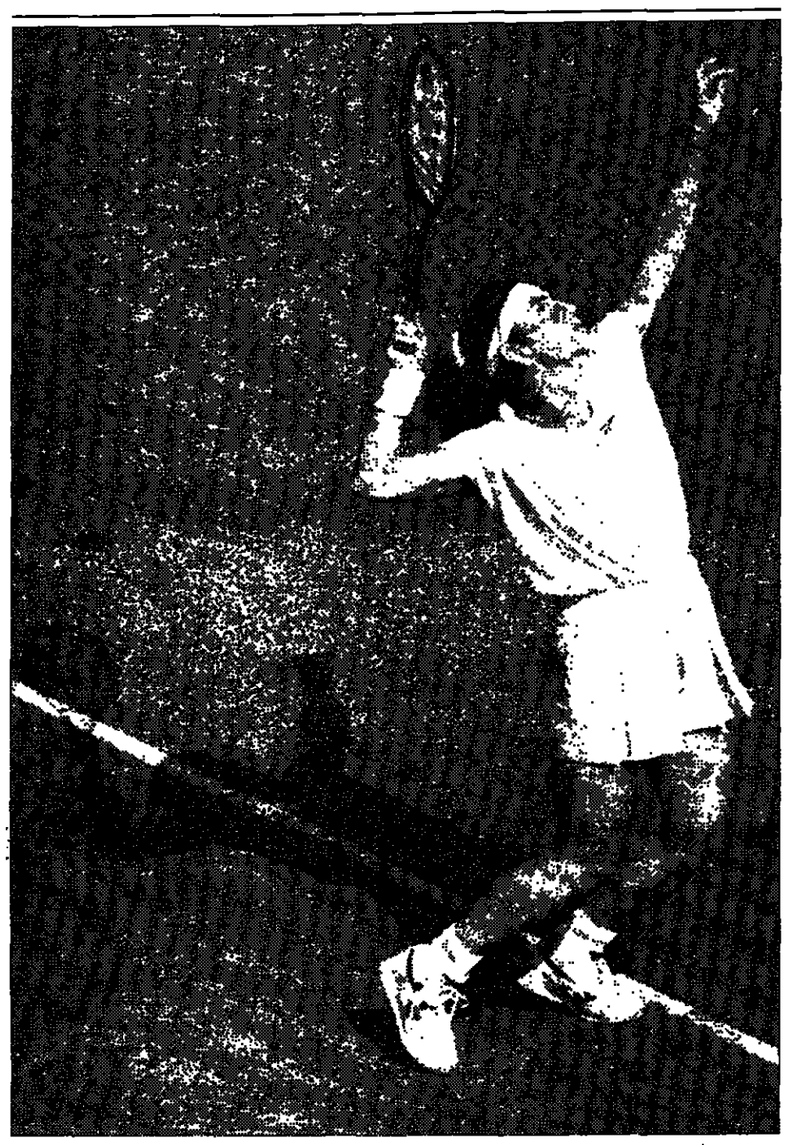
Ecclestone said Mahathir's enthusiasm convinced FOCA that it should make Malaysia the second Asian leg of the Grand Prix besides Japan. China and Indonesia are rival bidders.

"He (Mahathir) is very enthusiastic. He knows what Malaysia has to do and what we have to do. So, we have to build a good track," Ecclestone was quoted as saying.

He said FOCA and the sports' controlling body, the International Automobile Federation, would be assisting in the design and construction of the track and its facilities.

Basir Ismail, chairman of Malaysia airports BHD and the official assigned to bring a Formula One race to Malaysia, said a track would be built near the new Kuala Lumpur international airport.

Malaysia state oil company Petronas sponsors the Red Bull Sauber team in the current Formula One championships.



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

Sanchez waits for return of glory days

TOKYO (AFP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario has gone back to playing a waiting game in her quest for international recognition.

And after being the losing finalist for the seventh time this year in the Tokyo international Sunday, the Spanish World No. 2 knows she will have to wait a little longer to become the established women's World No. 1.

The problem is Steffi Graf and Monica Seles, two of the greatest women tennis players ever, will not give her a look in.

"At the moment, Steffi is the player who's won more Grand Slams, so that's why she's the No. 1," said Sanchez, after losing to Seles 6-1, 6-4 in the Tokyo final.

"But I did once when Steffi was there at her best. I believe that I can do it again also with Monica."

Sanchez was briefly No. 1 three times in 1995 while Seles was still away from the tour recovering after being stabbed in Hamburg in 1993.

Since her return in August last year, Seles has been co-ranked No. 1 with Graf by the Women's Tennis Association. That will last until she has played 14 tournaments or played for 18 months.

"I know it's very hard, but I just have to keep thinking positive, to keep going, and maybe my turn will come again. It's nice to be able to be there and fight for that with these two players," said Sanchez.

Sanchez has lost twice each to Graf and Seles this season which has made her probably the most frustrated player on the circuit.

She lost to Graf at the French Open and Wimbledon finals, and to Seles in the Canadian Open final as well as in Tokyo.

Sanchez has lost to Seles 12 times, while winning only once at the 1992 Canadian Open final.

"I think I learned a couple of things today, so I will be able to do better," said Sanchez, who will face Seles again this weekend when Spain, the defending champions, take on the United States in the Federation Cup final in Atlanta City.

"I think the surface will probably be faster, because that's the one they prefer the most, but if I play the way I did in the second set, then I will have more chances to do better and maybe win it."

The winner, she said, depends on the first day.

"Who starts the better has more chances to win. I think it can go either way. It's difficult for us, but for them a little bit, too."

Sad Spurs exposed by new boys

LONDON (AFP) — Tottenham manager Gerry Francis vowed to step up his search for new players after his side crashed to a shock 2-1 defeat to unfancied Leicester which exposed the lack of depth in his squad on Sunday.

Ian Marshall scored his first goal since his transfer from Ipswich to give Leicester a dramatic victory at White Hart Lane — their first away win of the season.

Marshall, yet to start a game since moving to the premiership newcomers last month, came off the bench to head home Garry Parker's 84th minute corner.

It was a massive relief for Leicester who had looked to have thrown away the advantage given to them by Steve Claridge's goal in the first half.

Skipper Steve Walsh could have killed off the game, but his penalty was saved by Ian Walker and then a revitalised Tottenham equalised from the spot through Clive Wilson.

Francis immediately promised Spurs anxious fans that he would bring in new players to stop the rot but asked Spurs' critics to bear in mind the club's injury problems.

He said: "We don't like losing. The players don't like it. But we know what the problems are — we know we need players, we know we need players back.

"It is very difficult to play any sort of game without your top two strikers (Chris Armstrong and Teddy Sheringham), which we have had to do now twice, as well as our captain Gary (Mabbutt).

When asked about his side's poor home form — they now have two draws and two defeats in their four premiership matches at White Hart Lane — Francis admitted he was worried.

Francis added: "It's becoming a bit of a worry. Obviously there are certain reasons, because we are lacking in important areas.

"We need players and we've got to get players released so we can actually buy them.

"We've got an amount of money, we have made offers here and abroad since the summer but unfortunately people are not available, sometimes people don't want to come, so it's not always that easy."

Chiefs, Vikings win battles of NFL unbeatens

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — The Minnesota Vikings and Kansas City Chiefs came out on top in clashes of previously unbeaten teams to run their records to 4-0 Sunday.

Robert Smith's 37-yard touchdown run with 4:13 to play put Minnesota ahead 24-21 as the Vikings rallied for a 30-21 win over the Green Bay Packers in a battle of NFC Central leaders.

A pair of late Scott Sisson field goals sealed the Minnesota win and dropped Green Bay to 3-1.

The Vikings, who sacked Packers star quarterback Brett Favre seven times, are off to their best start since 1975.

Green Bay had grabbed a 21-17 lead on an 80-yard touchdown pass play from Favre to Don Beebe and a 75-yard interception return for a TD by linebacker George Koonce.

"It was a classic game," said Vikings coach Dennis Green. "I think anyone that loves NFL football would've loved this game."

In Kansas City, Marcus Allen's two-yard touchdown run with 4:09 left propelled the Chiefs to a 17-14 victory over the Denver Broncos in a battle of AFC West leaders.

The Broncos appeared on their way to a game-winning drive, but Dale Carter saved the day by intercepting John Elway on the kansas city 4-yard line and the chiefs ran out the clock.

"The thing that amazes me is that this defensive football team keeps rising up," said Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer. "...We rose up and got it stopped."

Terrell Davis ran for 130 yards and two touchdowns in the first half for Denver (3-1), which led 14-10 at the half.

But Kansas City held the Broncos off the board in the second half, limiting them to 89 yards of offence, just 21 in the fourth quarter.

At Carolina, Steve Beuerlein threw two first-half touchdown passes to Wesley Walls as the Panthers jumped to a 17-point lead and stunned the San Francisco 49ers 23-7.

The second-year Panthers improved to 3-0, grabbing sole possession of first place in the NFC West from the 2-1 49ers.

Starting in place of the injured Kerry Collins, Beuerlein engineered scoring drives on the Panthers' first three possessions. "Days like this make my whole career worthwhile," Beuerlein said.

At New England, Adam Vinatieri' fifth field goal of the game — a 40-yarder at 2:36 of overtime — lifted the Patriots to a 28-25 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

New England (2-2) squandered a 22-0 second-quarter lead and nearly lost on the final play of regulation when Mark Brunell hit Willie Jackson at the Patriots' goal line. But time expired before the Jaguars (1-3) could run another play.

New England won the overtime coin toss and Drew Bledsoe moved his team 49 yards to set up the winning field goal.

The loss spoiled a magnificent performance by Brunell, who completed 23-of-39 passes for 432 yards and three touchdowns.

In New Orleans, Leshon Johnson rushed for 222 yards — the highest in the NFL in nearly three years — and two touchdowns as the Arizona Cardinals won for the first time under head coach Vince Tobin, 28-14 over the winless Saints.

Johnson had scoring runs of 56 and 70 yards in a two-minute span of the fourth quarter for the cards.

At Buffalo, Thomas Smith killed a potential go-head drive with an interception as the Bills, behind backup quarterback Todd Collins, stunned the Dallas Cowboys 10-7.

The loss dropped the super bowl champions to 1-3, the Cowboys' worst start since 1991.

Collins, playing in place of injured star Jim Kelly, engineered a 17-play, 78-yard scoring drive in the first quarter. Dallas' Troy Aikman had a terrible day with three interceptions and an ineffective Emmitt Smith managed just 25 yards on the ground for the Cowboys.

At Detroit, Scott Mitchell threw for 336 yards and four touchdowns and ran for a fifth score as the Lions pounded the Chicago Bears 35-16.

Detroit's Johnnie Morton had seven catches for a career-high 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Mitchell completed 24-of-36 passes, including three touchdown strikes in the second quarter, as the Lions improved to 2-2, while the Bears dropped to 1-3.

In St. Louis, Gus Frerotte threw for a touchdown and Terry Allen ran for another as the surprising Washington Redskins posted their third consecutive win, 17-10 over the Rams.

Scott Blanton added a 38-yard field goal for the Redskins, who have outscored their opponents 58-23 since an opening day loss to Philadelphia.

Taking advantage of three interceptions by St. Louis quarterback Steve Walsh, Washington held the Rams (1-2) without a point through the first 35 minutes.

In East Rutherford, N.J., the Giants proved they are not the worst team in New York by beating the woeful Jets 13-6 in a game that provided little reason for hope to fans of either club.

Dave Brown's 17-yard scoring pass to Chris Calloway was the game's only touchdown. Brad Daluiso added a pair of fourth-quarter field goals as the Giants (1-3) dropped the local rival Jets to 0-4.

In Oakland, Stan Humphries threw four touchdown passes, including three to Tony Martin, as the San Diego Chargers exploded early and held off the Raiders for a 40-34 win.

Humphries was 18-of-25 for 226 yards, was not intercepted, and hit Martin 10 times for 138 yards as San Diego won for the third time in four games.

At Tampa Bay, Lamar Smith's 14-yard run with 31 seconds left lifted the Seattle Seahawks to a 17-13 victory over the Buccaneers in a meeting of previously winless teams.

Tampa Bay quarterback Rick Mirer engineered the winning drive with the help of three completions to Brian Blades that set up Smith's touchdown run.

Buffalo Bills' Darick Holmes (44) is hit hard at the goal line by Dallas Cowboys' defensive back Deion Sanders (21) with help from Tony Tolbert (92), September 22. The Bills beat the Cowboys 10-7 at Rich Stadium in Orchard Park (Reuters photo)

NFL STANDINGS

American Football Conference

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Indianapolis	3	0	0	66	44
Miami	3	0	0	98	47
Buffalo	3	1	0	56	61
New England	2	2	0	79	66
NY Jets	0	4	0	46	101

Central Division

	W	L	T	PF	PA
Houston	2	1	0	82	60
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	64	47
Baltimore	1	2	0	49	74
Cincinnati	1	2	0	60	68
Jacksonville	1	3	0	79	88
Kansas City	4	0	0	91	53
Denver	3	1	0	102	66
San Diego	3	1	0	106	97
Oakland	1	3	0	68	81
Seattle	1	3	0	61	107

National Football Conference

Eastern Division

Philadelphia	3	1	0	87	88
Washington	3	1	0	72	40
Arizona	1	3	0	51	103
Dallas	1	3	0	64	57
NY Giants	1	3	0	43	87

Central Division

Minnesota	4	0	0	90	65
Green Bay	3	1	0	136	56
Detroit	2	2	0	86	63
Chicago	1	3	0	55	71
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	45	99

Western Division

Carolina	3	0	0	74	33
San Francisco	2	1	0	68	34
St. Louis	1	2	0	36	67
Atlanta	0	3	0	41	85
New Orleans	0	4	0	60	107

RESULTS

Carolina	23	San Francisco	7
Kansas City	17	Denver	14
Minnesota	30	Green Bay	21
Arizona	28	New Orleans	14
New England	28	Jacksonville	25 (Ot)
N Y Giants	13	New York Jets	6
Washington	17	St. Louis	10

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& Vanessa Williams...in
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CONCORD "2"
POLICE ACADEMY 7
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Rangers win as Braves clinch NL East title

ANAHEIM, California (R) — The Texas Rangers appear to have finally stopped the bleeding and gave themselves a bit of breathing room atop the American League West with a 4-1 victory over the California Angeles on Sunday.

Texas moved two games ahead of Seattle, which had a 10-game winning streak snapped, after losing eight games in the standings to the hard charging Mariners in nine days.

In Seattle, Mark McGwire hit a pair of upper-deck homers, including a grand slam in an eight-run fifth inning, as the Oakland Athletics built a 10-run lead and held on for a 13-11 victory that slowed the surging Mariners.

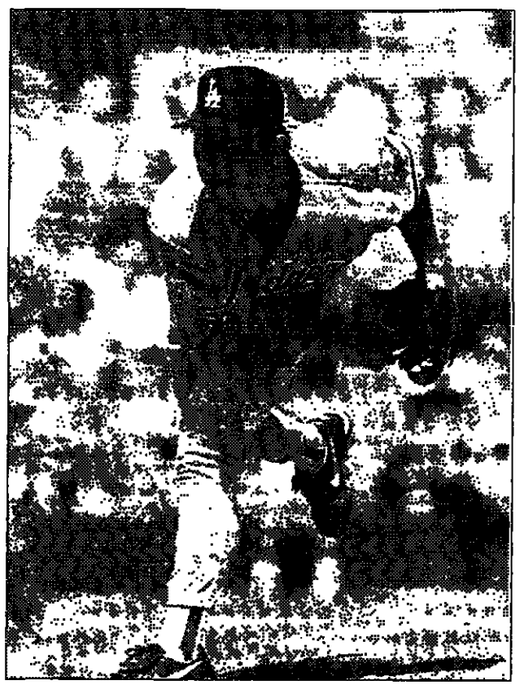
In New York, Paul O'Neill's sacrifice fly scored Derek Jeter, snapping a seventh-inning tie and lifting the Yankees to a 4-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

In Baltimore, todd Zeile and Rafael Palmeiro each drove in two runs and Scott Erickson won his fifth straight decision as the Orioles maintained their lead in the wild card race with a 5-4 triumph over the Toronto Blue Jays.

In Chicago, Alex Fernandez threw a five-hitter for his sixth complete game and Robin Ventura hit a three-run homer to cap a four-run sixth inning as the White Sox kept their slim wild-card hopes alive with a 5-1 win over the Minnesota Twins.

In Cleveland, Manny Ramirez's fielder's choice in the seventh inning tied the score and a throwing error by shortstop David Howard on the play allowed the go-ahead run as the Indians rallied for a 6-5 win over the Kansas City Royals.

In Milwaukee, Bob Higginson's RBI single highlighted a four-run ninth inning as the Detroit Tigers rallied past the Brewers, 7-5.



Los Angeles Dodgers' pitcher Hideo Nomo throws during his five inning outing against the San Diego Padres (Reuters photo)

World Series champions clinch title

Top Cy Young award candidate John Smoltz led the way as the defending World Series champion Atlanta Braves clinched the National League East title with an 8-2 victory over the Montreal Expos on Sunday.

In San Diego, Steve Finley hit a two-run homer to lift the Padres to a crucial 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In Cincinnati, the Reds swept a double header from St Louis, preventing the Cardinals from capturing the Central Division title.

Bret Boone triggered a four-run seventh with a two-run triple and five relievers combined to pitch five scoreless innings as the Reds rallied for a 6-3 win in the opener.

In Pittsburgh, Jay Bell continued his torrid hitting with a homer and four RBI to lead the Pirates to a major-league best 11th straight win, an 11-3 drubbing of the Chicago Cubs.

Davis Cup

France claw their way back to face Sweden in final

PARIS (AFP) — France, who had looked to have lost their chance of reaching the Davis Cup final when they lost both of the opening singles against Italy Friday, clawed their way back and completed a 3-2 triumph in the Beaulieu Stadium in Nantes.

They will now travel to Malmo on November 29 to face five-time champions Sweden who eliminated the Czech Republic in Prague 4-1.

"This was a magnificent win," said French captain Yannick Noah after leading jubilant on-court celebrations with players and team officials after the victory.

"The team spirit was first class and nobody talked of defeat even after losing the opening singles. But we made serious mistakes and we should have done a lot better. We were not certain of coming through until the very last point."

After the victory of Guy Forget and Guillaume Raoux in Saturday's doubles, Cedric Pioline and Arnaud Boetsch, cheered on by an excited and partisan crowd, produced inspired performances.

Pioline levelled the tie at 2-2 with an impressive 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 win over Renzo Furlan, and then Boetsch clinchbed the winning point by defeating Andrea Gaudenzi 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (10/8).

Gaudenzi, who played with his right wrist tightly strapped, could not believe his eyes when Australian umpire Wayne McKewen, without waiting for the line-judge, called a deep forehand 'out' at 7-7 in the tense, third-set tie-break.

Italian captain Adriano Panatta, a former French Open champion, was so insensed, he violently shook the umpire's chair and was lucky to escape a warning.

Noah said of the incident: "If that had happened to me I dread to think what I would have done to the umpire."

The victory put France through to the final for the first time since 1991 when they defeated the United States for the trophy in Lyon.

Sweden, leading 2-1 overnight, clinched their tenth appearance in the final of the competition when Thomas Enqvist came back after trailing by two sets to one to beat Daniel Vacek 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

"I don't think I've ever played a match quite like that," he said after his exciting win.

"I think we both played really well. I had to take a lot of risks on my serve and stay aggressive to try to curtail the rallies.

The longer the ball stayed in play the more chance he seemed to have to win the point.

Sweden's victory sets the scene for what could be an emotional farewell for 30-year-old former world No. 1 Stefan Edberg.

Edberg, who is to retire at the end of the season and who won the dead rubber against hitting partner Petr Korda 4-6, 6-2, 7-5, will be appearing in his seventh final is he is selected for Malmo.

Austria lost their place in the elite World Group to Brazil when they refused to play the reverse singles of their stormy qualifying round clash in Sao Paulo following the disqualification of their No. 1 Thomas Muster.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) confirmed that the tie had been awarded to Brazil by a 4-1 scoreline.

Muster, clearly upset by the constant jeering and behaviour of the Brazilian fans, stalked off court during Saturday's doubles and was promptly disqualified from playing his Sunday singles.

The Austrian federation promptly withdrew their team who were trailing 2-1 overall.

Muster, who was playing alongside Udo Plamberger against Gustavo Kuerten and Jaime Oncins when he staged his walk-off, claimed that he had been threatened, spat upon and distracted during the match.

The 1995 French Open champion and former world No.1, was still seething with anger 24 hours after his disqualification.

"I shall never play here again," he said, adding: "Brazil should be punished. If this is Davis Cup tennis then I want no part of it.

The people here are animals.

"During three and a half hours we were insulted, spat upon and objects were thrown at us," he said.

His coach and team captain Ronald Leitgeb backed up Muster's stance.

"we tried to stay calm. But the behaviour towards us and to Thomas was unacceptable. Thomas feared for his personal safety, and there were reasons."

Leitgeb, who also demanded that action be taken against Brazil, went on: "Brazil are on the black list, but the ITF (International Tennis Federation) have apparently not learned from past lessons.

Someone has to eventually do something."

Portugal's match referee, Antonio Flores marques, described Austrian complaints about crowd behaviour as "unjustifiable", but the ITF has called for him to give them a full report, and also asked for comments from their observer Thomas Hallberg, and from the Brazilian and Austrian federations.

The matter will now be discussed by the Davis Cup committee at their meeting in London on October 7.

In other world group qualifying matches, Mexico, Australia, Romania, Russia, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland all won their ties while Austria will be joined in group one by Argentina, Croatia, Belgium, New Zealand, Hungary, Denmark and Morocco.

Wimbledon's 72-year-old number one court was given an emotional send-off as Britain marked the passing of the historic venue with an emphatic Davis Cup victory over Egypt.

Britain's Canadian-born Greg Rusedski played the final game on the famous showcourt, which is due to be demolished later this year in Wimbledon's massive rebuilding programme. He beat Amr Ghoneim 6-4, 6-2 to complete a comprehensive 5-0 Euro-Africa Zone victory over the visitors.

Earlier, in a rain-interrupted clash, Tim Henman beat Tamer El Sawy 6-7 (4/7), 6-2, 6-2.

In a brief farewell ceremony at the end of Rusedski's match, the net from number one court was handed over to the Wimbledon Museum for posterity.

Bayern have early season test of strength

PARIS (AFP) — UEFA Cup favourites Bayern Munich have an early season test of strength against Valencia Tuesday with a 3-0 deficit to make up in their first round, second leg climbing to the top of the Bundesliga with a win over Karlsruhe will have done the Bavarians no harm but they must make sure not to concede a goal.

Goals were conceded liberally in Spain two weeks ago as Piojo Lopez, Gabriel Moya and a Vicente Engonga penalty put Valencia in the driving seat just after the break.

But other German clubs should not find it so tough against British opposition.

Borussia Moenchengladbach grabbed a 3-2 win at Arsenal and on paper have an easy home tie in one of just two Wednesday fixtures.

The Londoners have since scored a stack of goals — 4-1 against Sheffield Wednesday and 2-0 against Middlesbrough — to put them third in the premiership on a wave of good form.

Hamburg, who lost 3-1 at VFL Bochum Saturday, hold a 2-0 lead over celtic and are expected to book their second round place.

Among other British hopefuls, Aston Villa came out poorly with only a 1-1 draw at home to Swedish part-timers Helsingborgs, but Newcastle United at least had a first leg to remember.

Helsingborg's neighbours Halmstad were thrashed 4-0 by the Magpies at St. James' Park with goals from Les Ferdinand, Faustino Asprilla, Philippe Albert and Peter Beardsley.

And Alan Shearer hit the winner in their 1-0 win over Leeds at the weekend to boost the morale of the Tynesiders still further.

Halmstad's Jesper Mattsson is suspended for Tuesday's clash.

French clubs, who made such a hit last year with Paris Saint Germain winning the European Cup Winners Cup and Bordeaux reaching the UEFA Cup final, have a tough task.

Guingamp's 3-0 loss against Inter Milan at their own Roudourou Stadium makes it a virtual mission impossible for Francis Smerecki's side.

Despite a creditable 0-0 draw at bordeaux on Friday, the Brittany side will need to surpass Bordeaux's UEFA Cup exploits to qualify for the next round — Bordeaux overturned a 2-0 deficit to beat AC Milan in last year's quarter-final.

But with Yannick Barret, Vincent Candela and Marek Jozwiak suspended, the tie looks even more daunting for Guingamp. And Inter gave their squad a clean bill of health.

Lens also lost at home to an Italian side — 1-0 to Lazio — and recent form does not favour a turnaround in fortunes in Rome.

Lens were thrashed 4-0 by PSG on Friday and the absence of injured defenders may continue to hamper them next week. They lost 5-1 against Monaco earlier this month.

Lazio's Giuseppe Favalli is suspended for the tie and Pierluigi Casiraghi is doubtful with an injured jaw and must wait for a fitness test.

Montpellier conceded an away goal in a 1-1 draw against Sporting Lisbon and will find it difficult in Portugal, especially with sweeper Franck Sauzee doubtful with a right hamstring injury.

But Metz should overcome FC Tirol following a goalless draw in Austria and Monaco should follow suit with their 1-0 advantage against Poland's Hutnik Krakow.

Helping Monaco, Krakow, who have six players sidelined injured, could only play out a poor 0-0 draw against Zaglebie in the Polish League at the weekend.

But on a worse note for the Principality side they themselves are without four players. Defender Philippe Leonard is suspended, Eric Di Meco is still recovering from a knee operation, and both Gilles Grimandi and Dan Petersen have achilles problems.

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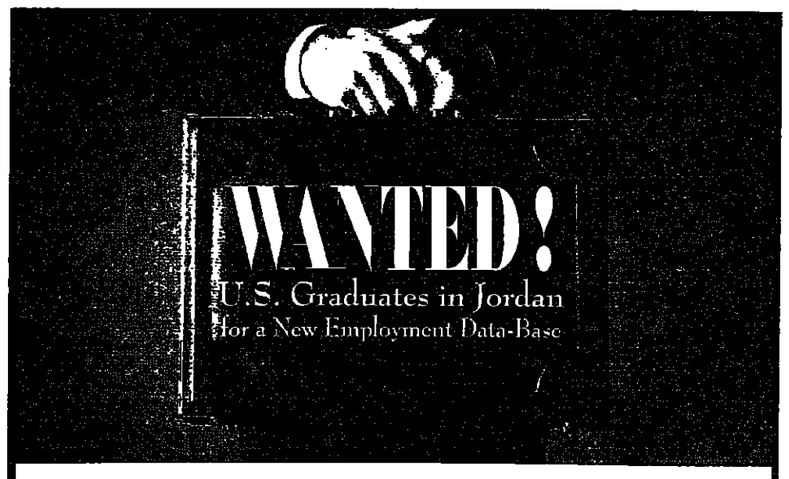

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Egyptian-Israeli feud heats up, turns personal

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt warned on Monday that Israel's "warlike" statements to Syria could provoke a similar reaction in the Arab World and torpedo the Middle East peace process.

The friction between Egypt and Israel has turned personal with Cairo portraying Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu as neurotic and afraid of peace with the Arabs.

A senior Egyptian official called Israeli officials "dinosaurs" out of touch with present realities for saying there would never be a Palestinian state.

The government daily Al Akhbar said that most Egyptians, despite their 1979 peace treaty with Israel, would want a break in ties or even a war because of the "provocative" statements made by Mr. Ne-tanyahu (See page 2).

"The war drums being beaten by Israeli leaders and their threats to use the military option are of a nature that they could dash all peaceful efforts and without doubt provoke similiar reaction," Assistant Egyptian Foreign Minister Fathi Al Shazli said.

He was responding to statements by Israeli De-fence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Sunday warning Syria against the temptation of using military pressure to force Israel back to the negotiating table on its terms.

"I issue this warning to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad: "Remember that Israel is strong and its army is ready to carry out whatever tasks it must'," Mr. Mordechai told the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot in reaction to recent Syrian troop redeployments in Lebanon.

Mr. Shazli, who joined the growing chorus of Egyptian officials taking aim at Israel, responded: "This language of dinosaurs by the Israeli government goes against Israel's obligations towards its partners in the peace process, including Syria, and causes revulsion."

"I think that all parties involved in the peace process, notably the co-sponsors (the United States and Russia) must share my sentiment," he said.

Mr. Shazli added that he did not believe the Likud-led government of Mr. Netanyahu was "aware of the dangers which could come from the failure of the peace process or that this government honestly represented the views of the majority of Israelis, who we are sure want peace."

"Unfortunately, the Likud government is capable of sabotaging the strategic interests of Israel firstly, and all the countries in the region," he said.

Earlier this month, Mr. Netanyahu accused Egypt of cutting off its nose to spite its face by threatening to postpone an international economic conference if no progress is made on the peace process.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa last week suggested Mr. Netanyahu should stay away from Egypt's "nose" and accused the Israeli leader of being rude.

On Sunday, another assistant foreign minister, Adel Al-Safty, said that Mr. Netanyahu suffered from a phobia about Israel's security and suggested it could only be resolved at a psychiatrist's office and not at the negotiating table.

WAITING FAMILIES: Families of Bangladeshis forced back home from the United Arab Emirates wait for their relatives at Dhaka airport. Up to 30,000 Bangladeshis who worked in the UAE for years are expected to return home all on a sudden as the UAE imposed a tough new law to curb illegal immigrants (Reuters photo)

Kurdish 'prime minister-designate' asserts Kurds still need protection

ERBIL (AP) — The man who will be "prime minister" of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq said Monday the area still needs Western protection from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"We must convince the international community, particularly the United States and the allies, that we still need their support and their protection," Premier-designate Roj Nouri told the Associated Press. "Iraq still wants to rule here."

Mr. Nouri, a feisty, mustachioed man, is a leading member of Massoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the group that recently defeated a rival group to take control of the Kurdish region. Mr. Barzani is the most powerful Kurdish figure in northern Iraq.

The group was assisted by President Saddam's army, but now says it has ended its temporary alliance with the Iraqi leader — a historic enemy of the Kurds.

"Until a democratic regime takes over in Iraq, we are very concerned about security," Mr. Nouri said.

For now, at least, President Saddam appears to be refraining from a direct role in the north, perhaps because he does not want to provoke another confrontation with the United States. But there's little doubt that his forces could reclaim control whenever they wanted.

The United States and its allies established a "safe haven" for the Kurds in northern Iraq after the Iraqi army crushed a 1991 rebellion.

U.S. warplanes have patrolled the skies over northern Iraq for the past five years. Western aid groups were active on the ground before the recent turmoil.

However, the coordination centre of the U.S.-French-British military mission near the northern town of Zakho was pulled back across the border to Turkey.

Some 2,000 Kurds who had worked for the U.S. aid agencies were evacuated to Guam, and many foreigners working for other aid and charity organisations based in and around Zakho also left.

Mr. Nouri acknowledged Iraqi Kurdistan needs the foreign aid groups back desperately. Of the estimated one million Kurds of working age, only about 200,000 have regular jobs, and many have not been paid in three months.

He said his first job would be to make the streets safe again and that he is working on a plan to demobilise irregular militiamen, or integrate them into a regular army of Peshmergas, or Kurdish soldiers.

50 bodies found in new Srebrenica mass grave

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — International experts working at a mass gravesite in eastern Bosnia linked to the fall of Srebrenica have recovered 50 bodies so far, an official here said Monday.

Laure Vollen, spokeswoman for a human rights group involved in the dig, said that work was continuing at the site in Pilica, in northeast Bosnia, close to the border with Serbia.

"We had really horrible conditions yesterday because of the rain. We have recovered 50 bodies so far," she told AFP.

Last week, experts were working in the mud trying to carefully disentangle a two metre-high pile of decomposed limbs. The grave is in a cornfield not far from a main road, shielded by some trees. It is believed to contain the bodies of Muslim men killed after the fall of the undeclared safe area of Srebrenica in July 1995.

Asked how many bodies were in the grave, Ms. Vollen said: "There are probably less than 100, but there's no final figure."

In testimony at the International War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, Drazen Erdemovic, a Croat who served in the Bosnian Serb Army, said that he had been part of a firing squad which shot line after line of men there. The digging was commissioned by the Hague tribunal and involves experts from the Boston-based non-governmental organisation, Physicians for Human Rights.

The grave is the fourth Srebrenica site to be excavated. Some 154 bodies were recovered from a mass grave in Cerska, 33 from Nova Kasaba and at least 58 from Lazete.

Closer to Srebrenica, Bosnian government experts were working independently Monday to recover bodies left in the open on the Kravice hillside near the village of Donji Mratinci.

"They are working today. So far there are some 20 bodies discovered," Andrea Angeli, a spokesman for the U.N. police, told AFP.

Qatar says ex-emir's bank accounts frozen

DOHA (Agencies) — Qatar on Monday accused its ousted emir of stealing large funds from state coffers and said they had been frozen by France and other countries to which they had been transferred.

The Qatari Justice Ministry said it had asked France, the United States, Switzerland, Germany, Britain, and Luxembourg to freeze the assets of Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani after discovering they had been transferred into his personal accounts illegally.

"The government has sought judicial help from those countries. It has received such help and the funds have been frozen pending consideration of the complaint by the Qatari government against the defendants," the ministry said in a statement carried by the official Qatari News Agency (QNA).

It said the illegal transfers were discovered this year following a "comprehensive auditing of the emiri court's accounts" ordered by the current emir, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, the eldest son of the toppled leader.

It did not specify the size of the stolen funds but described them as huge, although the Middle East Economic Digest said in January that the former emir had seized control of more than $3 billion in assets.

Some of the funds were transferred to the personal accounts of Issa Al Kawari, the then director of the ex-emir's office, QNA added.

Sheikh Hamad, in his 40s, ousted his father in a bloodless palace coup in June 1995, citing economic woes for his action.

Sheikh Khalifa, who had been staying in Abu Dhabi until June, has vowed to retake power although he has denied involvement in a counter-coup attempt early this year.

Swiss bank accounts which Sheikh Khalifa had access to were frozen in June, but the latest request covers additional funds as well.

Official sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimate the value of funds to be as high as $12 billion.

Kuwait's Al Siyassah newspaper said Monday that Qatar had asked Interpol to arrest the ex-ruler and his aide, Mr. Kuwari. They are currently believed to be in London.

The Arabic-language daily said a criminal court in Qatar has sent subpoenas to London for the deposed leader to appear in court on Oct. 6 to face charges of misappropriation of funds and abuse of power.

It was the second time that Sheikh Hamad accused his father of stealing public funds. Last year, Doha charged the overthrown emir controlled funds transferred into his accounts from oil revenues.

Turkey's East-West stand seen going around in circles

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's foreign policy is coming apart at the seams in the aftermath of the Iraq crisis, exposing confusion in the Islamist-led coalition's dual approach to East and West, analysts and diplomats say.

Tansu Ciller, billed as the Western face of the new government, has made several high-profile U-turns as the coalition's junior partner and foreign minister.

At the same time, Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan has little to show for his pledge to bring Muslim but secular Turkey closer to the Islamic world.

He too has reversed himself publically on key issues, dropping pledges to cancel a military accord with Israel and to expel the U.S.-led air force patrolling northern Iraq from a Turkish base.

The net results, say analysts, are conflicting signals to Turkey's friends and foes alike.

"In short, it's a muddle all around," said one senior Western diplomat.

"Turkish foreign policy is shaped according to the morning weather," Kamran Inan, a former minister and veteran Turkish diplomat, told Reuters. "There is no strategy, no long-term policy."

Nowhere is that more apparent than in Turkey's approach to Iraq, its big southern neighbour and once its third largest trading partner, after the United States and Germany.

Mrs. Ciller told the New York Times at the weekend that Ankara would drop its latest attempt to create a "security zone" inside Iraq if President Saddam Hussein took steps to crush Turkish Kurds waging a guerrilla war from camps in the north.

"If he can establish a degree of rule there that puts an end to terrorist infiltration, that would be fine with us," the paper quoted Mrs. Ciller as saying in English.

Three weeks ago, President Saddam dispatched troops in a successful bid to support one Iraqi Kurdish faction against another, gaining his first foothold in the rebel north since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Mrs Ciller's invitation to President Saddam — quickly disavowed by both Mr. Erbakan and the foreign minister herself — is at direct odds with the policies of Turkey's NATO allies to restrict his power.

The New York times said U.S. officials were dismayed by Mrs. Ciller's remarks.

However, it was clear they struck a chord in Baghdad, where Iraq's ambassador to Ankara said on Saturday his country was ready to negotiate a border security deal with Turkey.

"We thought that Turkey had an Iraq policy, but now we see it has not," said political commentator Bilal Cetin. "Turkey does not even know which step to take."

The confusion over Iraq comes at a critical moment, both for Turkey and its U.S.-educated foreign minister.

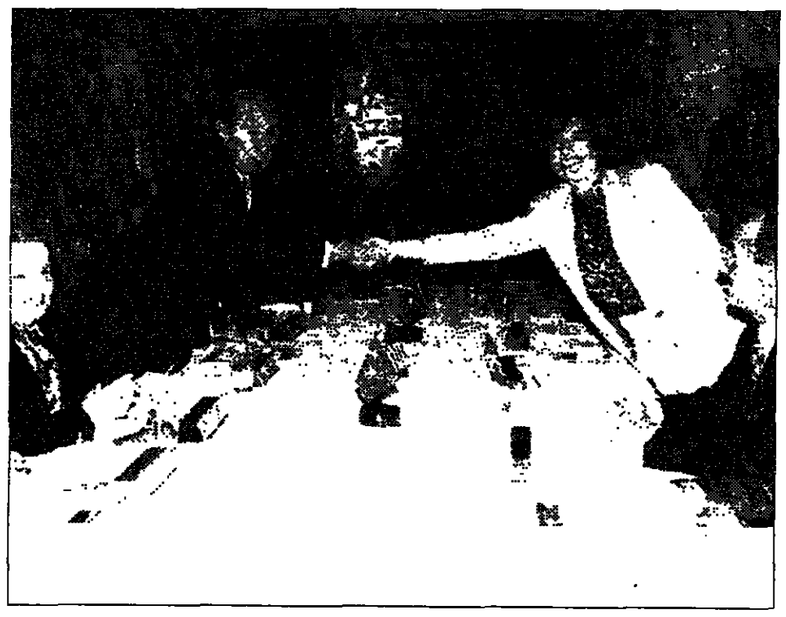
Ankara, in need of transit fees and trade dollars, is eager to see U.N. approval of a stalled $2 billion oil-for-food deal with Baghdad that would send Iraqi crude down Turkish pipelines for the first time in five years.

It is also increasingly frustrated at its inability to choke off the 12-year-old separatist insurgency of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), partly based in Iraq. More than 20,000 people have died in Turkey in Pkk battles with security forces.

But Turkey does not want to upset the United States, its most enthusiastic patron. Washington is in no hurry to see Saddam regain control of northern Iraq or begin a return to world oil markets.

For Mrs. Ciller, her precarious position as Turkey's top envoy to the west is in jeopardy.

Diplomats say they are still reeling from her move in June to form a coalition with the Islamists after selling herself to the electorate and the world at large as the last barrier to what she called the "dark forces" of the Muslim-based Welfare Party.



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (left) greets Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller at the start of their bilateral meeting during the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sunday. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright is at Mr. Christopher's left (Reuters photo)

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IAF denies preferring anyone as prime minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) on Monday denied press reports that it had asked His Majesty King Hussein to appoint former Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddine as prime minister.

The weekly Al Majd, which made the claim in a previous issue in the wake of last month's riots in the south, said in its latest issue yesterday that the IAF secretary-general, Ishaq Farhan, had requested the King when they met several weeks ago "to dismiss the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti and ask Ibrahim Izzeddine to form a new government."

"With all due respect to Mr. Izzeddine, our movement is not canvassing for a certain personality" to head the government, the IAF said in a statement issued yesterday.

"We only want a government of the people, made up of men of integrity and good reputation, who would lead the country, internally and externally, to a better future."

Mr. Izzeddine is a moderate politician who had served thrice as minister with the governments of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Mudar Badran since 1989 and as ambassador to Washington, London and Bonn before that. He resigned from the government in 1995 partly in protest against its unaccommodating policies towards the opposition.

He is known for advocating inclusion rather than confrontational policies towards the Islamic opposition.

Al Majd, an outspoken critic of the government, said the present conflict between Mr. Kabariti and the Islamic opposition had escalated especially in the wake of the detention of Hilmi Al Asmar, editor of the Islamist weekly, Al Sabeel.

Mr. Asmar was detained Wednesday after publishing an article that claimed Issam Najjar, a Hamas activist, had been tortured by the security forces. Government sources Monday said the report was totally fabricated by the IAF to tarnish the image of the government.

Al Majd said that the escalation between the government and the opposition also followed the re-arrest of Mr. Najjar and the detention of University of Jordan sociology professor Ibrahim Abu Arkoub and University Hospital head nurse Saed Abu Hawas, both Islamists.

The weekly said that Mr. Kabariti has rebuffed Islamist deputies' attempts to end the crisis.

COLUMN 8

Forgotten letters reveal new side of Lennon

LONDON (R) — Letters from John Lennon left forgotten in an attic for two decades revealed that the former Beatle known for his public antics, Bohemian lifestyle and tragic death was home-loving and health conscious. In a series of letters to his cousin Leila written from New York in the mid-1970s Lennon wrote about his love for his son Julian, concern about his diet and his daily yoga routines. "It is very rare that something as personal as this comes up. They are very revealing letters." Beatles biographer Philip Norman told the Sunday Times newspaper. The letters were lost until last week when Leila's brother Stan Parkes, 62, found them in his attic in the west of Scotland. "About Julian...I'm lucky if I see/hear from him myself. She (former wife Cynthia) allowed him over here twice last year..." Lennon wrote, refuting rumours that he had abandoned his son when he moved to New York in the 1970s. Norman said the cache of letters also showed that Lennon's second wife Yoko Ono had not forced him to live like a recluse in New York and that he kept in contact with his family and was in touch with what was going on. In one letter Lennon, who was murdered by a crazed fan in New York in 1980, wrote, "I bet I live to a ripe old age."

Miss S. Africa sparks row with animal sacrifice

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Animal lovers taking pets on a Sunday fun-run told their celebrity guest, Miss South Africa, to stay away after she revealed plans to sacrifice a goat to her ancestors. Peggy-Sue Khumalo, 23, who planned the sacrifice to thank the spirits for her Miss South Africa title, told a weekly magazine that if she won November's Miss World contest in India, she would also slaughter a cow and even 10 oxen. "Because of her involvement in ritual slaughter, which does cause suffering to animals, we have asked her to stand down," a spokesman for the Animal Anti-Cruelty League, that organised the Johannesburg Fun Run, told the Sunday Times. Ms. Khumalo said she grew up on a farm and would never abuse animals. "In my culture we slaughter an animal as an act of gratitude," she said. "Slaughtering should be carried out in a humane manner, causing minimal suffering."

Rugby player sent off — without playing

CARDIFF (R) — John Lomu, younger brother of top all blacks player Jonah Lomu, was sent off without even playing after getting involved in a brawl on the pitch. Lomu was on the bench for Cardiff club Old Illtydians in a local cup match against Cwmllynfell Saturday when players started exchanging blows. "There was a bit of a fracas going on between the forwards and John ran into the middle of it," said Cwmllynfell fixture secretary Wyn Griffiths. "I honestly think his intention was to separate the players involved but as he arrived in the thick of it he got a bit of a clout. So he gave one back and as a result he got sent off without even playing." Cwmllynfell won the match 22-19. Lomu faces a ban of up to six weeks.